

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. LII.]

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BIRTHS.

At No. 2, Caine Road, on the 15th December, the wife of T. DE FABIA-NEVES, of a son.

At Kowloon Dock, on the 19th December, the wife of D. T. BALDWIN, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

On the 6th December, at St. Andrew's Cathedral, Singapore, by the Ven'ble Archdeacon Perham, FLORENCE MARY BARTLETT, daughter of the late John Edward BARTLETT of Peverel Court, Aylesbury, Bucks., to ALFRED JAMES FRASER, son of J. C. FRASER, formerly of Yokohama and Liverpool.

On the 10th December, 1900, at Holy Trinity Cathedral, Shanghai, by the Rev. H. C. Hodges, M.A., assisted by the Rev. A. R. Price, of H.M.S. *Aurora*, and the Rev. E. F. H. Smith, of H.M.S. *Centurion*, ANNIE NICOLL, youngest daughter of the late Alexander NICOLL, of London and New York, to Lieut. Walter J. MATTHEWS, R.N., son of the late Edward MATTHEWS, London.

At the Peak Church, on Thursday, the 13th December, 1900, by the Rev. F. T. Johnson, M.A., ROBERT PATE DIPPLE, of Shanghai, to LOUISE JENEVEBA ELLIOTT, only daughter of W. J. H. ELLIOTT, of Woodlands, Hampshire.

At St. John's Cathedral, on the 15th December, by the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Victoria, assisted by the Rev. F. T. Johnson, M.A., LOUISE, eldest daughter of J. D. BUCKLAND, and grand-daughter of the late Stephen BUCKLAND, to FRANK HIRST HEBBLE THWAITE, youngest son of the late Joseph Hirst Hebble Thwaite, of Merford, Yorkshire.

DEATHS.

At the General Hospital, Singapore, on the 6th December, at 6 p.m., LINDSAY DRYCOCK (late E. P. C. 22), aged 31 years, after a brief illness.

At the General Hospital, Shanghai, on the 11th December, 1900, MATTHEW JULIUS CENTERWALL, aged 50 years.

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

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ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The American mail of the 20th November arrived, per P. M. steamer *China*, on the 20th December (30 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

Sir Frank Swettenham is expected back in Malaya about the first week in February.

The *N.-C. Daily News* is informed that a lieutenant and twenty French marines are proceeding to Chungking to protect French interests at that port.

Sheng, formerly Taotai at Shanghai, and the Governor of Chekiang, have been appointed by an Imperial Decree to settle questions connected with the Chuchou massacre.

A Reuter's telegram of the 18th inst. says that Mr. Hay has cabled fresh instructions to Minister Conger removing certain obstacles, making it probable that all the Ministers will sign the Note.

In the *P. & T. Times* of the 1st inst. Lieut-General von Lessel, commanding the German expeditionary forces in China, emphatically denies the charge of unnecessary brutality brought against the German troops at Tientsin.

A Tokyo telegram of the 6th inst. states that Lieut-General Kodama, Governor-General of Formosa, has been recalled to Tokyo. It is believed that Baron Kodama will be appointed to succeed General Katsura as Minister of Army.

The difficulty over the credentials of Prince Ching and Li Hung-chang was settled by an Imperial Decree, intelligence of which was received on the 14th inst., authorising the Chinese plenipotentiaries to place the Imperial seal on their credentials. Previously to this certain of the Ministers refused to recognise the status of Prince Ching and Li Hung-chang.

In the Japanese Budget for 1900-1901 the estimate of revenue amounts to 236,716,179 yen, while the expenditures aggregate 233,936,699 yen, showing a balance of 2,779,470. Additional estimates are provided for in a special budget, the revenue being 15,181,734 yen, and the expenditure 16,956,450 yen—a deficit of 1,774,716 yen. The total balance, therefore, is 1,004,753 yen.

Considerable disaffection seems to exist in political circles in Siam in regard to the agreement which has just been concluded between Great Britain and that country. By it Britain abrogates the schedule of taxes in five sections of the 1856 Agreement, on the condition that the taxation on the land held by British subjects in Siam nowhere exceeds similar taxation in Lower Burma.

The steamer *Thales*, which arrived on the 19th inst., reported H.M.S. *Mohawk* and the French cruiser *Descartes* at Foochow, H.M.S.S. *Argonaut* and *Isis* and two Japanese men-of-war at Amoy, and the German cruiser *Bussard* at Swatow.

Tientsin is now under a provisional government composed of various nationalities with Mr. Tenney, late of the Tientsin University, installed as secretary. The head-quarters of this Government is now inhabiting what was Li Hung-chang's yamen.

Owing to the steadily increasing communication between Formosa and Japan proper, a proposal will be submitted to the Japanese Imperial Diet at the forthcoming session in favour of laying another cable between Keelung and Nagasaki, in addition to the existing cable between Keelung and Ohama in Osumi Province; The expense involved in carrying out the new undertaking is estimated at 1,600,000 yen.

M. G. de Champeaux, agent at Hongkong for the Messageries Maritimes Company, informed us that according to a telegram received on the 16th inst. from Singapore the French mail *Salazie* would have to stop at Saigon on account of an injury in her shaft, which will be repaired there. Mails were to be transhipped at Singapore on board the P. & O. s.s. *Chusan*. Passengers and cargo were to be transhipped at Saigon on board the M. M. s.s. *Tamiso*.

In a *Government Gazette Extraordinary* on the 18th inst, it was notified that Monday, the 24th December, will be observed as a Public Holiday, in addition to the three prescribed Public Holidays, Christmas Day, the 26th December, and the 1st January. Wednesday, the 2nd January, will also be observed as a holiday by the Government Departments. A notice has also been circulated by the banks that they will close for public business on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday next, the 24th, 25th, and 26th instant.

There must have been some misunderstanding, or something must have happened that has not as yet reached us, to make the Germans attack General Mei, says the *N.-C. Daily News* of the 15th inst.; perhaps a misconception similar to that which led an English force to attack another Chinese General the other day. General Mei has been one of Yuan Shi-kai's right-hand men; he has been noted for his vigour in suppressing Boxers, guarding the Shantung frontier, and protecting missions, and it would seem that the German Commander has been misinformed by his interpreters or guides.

No news beyond hearsay has been received here confirming our Tientsin correspondent's allusion to a supposed reverse experienced by Count York's expedition to Kalgan, says the *N.-C. Daily News*, and it is strenuously denied, as we mentioned, that the expedition met with any reverse at all. In this connection the *Daily News* has been favoured with the following extract from a private letter dated Peking, the 5th instant:—"The Italian troops returned yesterday from Kalgan, where they found a good deal of cold and no enemy. A small detachment of Italian sailors, which was left to look after a village, was attacked by Boxers, who were repulsed at the point of the bayonet, leaving some of them dead. A midshipman, Signor Bichi, was slightly wounded in the right hand."

PACIFICATION AND PEACE NEGOTIATIONS IN THE NORTH:

(Daily Press, 18th December.)

It is plain from recent telegrams from North China that the province of Chihli is by no means cleared of Boxers and disorganised Chinese soldiery yet, in spite of the fact that some weeks have elapsed since we were informed that this was so. Two small fights in the centre of the province on the 10th and the 12th instant were reported by the *Ostasiatische Lloyd* telegrams appearing in our local evening contemporary on Saturday. The first was an engagement between a large body of Boxers and a picket of the allied troops near Hosiwu, which culminated next day in the defeat and dispersal of the Boxers by a strengthened force of Allies. The affair of the 12th instant was about twenty miles west of Peking. No details are to hand beyond the statement that the Boxers attacked a small British force. Another battle is reported from Chihli, but the Chinese combatants in this case were not Boxers, but apparently regular troops. A Tientsin telegram, according to our Shanghai correspondent, reported last week the rout by the Germans at Tsangchou, to the south of Tientsin, of General MEI, the killing of forty-three of his men, and the looting of his baggage. It is also stated that his prisoners, certain notorious Boxers, were released—a story which is incredible. The British are said to regret the attack on General MEI, who has opposed the Boxers and befriended missions. MEI, it will be remembered, was in command of a body of foreign-drilled troops during the previous Viceroyalty of LI HUNG-CHANG in Chihli. The story is a strange one, but as fuller details are not to hand yet the only course is to reserve our judgment. There is, however, no doubt that Chihli is by no means in the quiet state in which we were led to believe it was. The flying excursions of the allied troops have not succeeded in reducing even the neighbourhoods of Peking and Tientsin to peace. Nor does the approach of winter appear to have frozen Boxer activity, though this activity manifests itself only in small guerilla warfare. It certainly seems curious that the Boxers have managed to resist all efforts to crush them in the province where the Allies have had so many men at their disposal. The name "Boxer" no doubt includes all the disbanded soldiery from the wreck of the Imperial troops who fought the Allies in August. The difference between the Boxer and the ordinary Chinese soldier, undisciplined by European drill, is little, and the remnants of the inferior troops no doubt have easily adopted Boxer garb and manners.

Apart from these engagements, there is no news from the north. A correspondent writes to us from Tientsin and reports nothing stirring either there or at Peking. He had, moreover, the same story himself from a very well known correspondent at Peking. The protracted nature of the peace negotiations perhaps prevents the interest in them from becoming acute. Even the hitch over the Chinese representatives' credentials caused but little sensation. The difficulty has been easily solved, and those who took the opportunity to heap abuse on the "pretended peacemakers" must now be engaged in explaining their remarks away. What new obstacles may arise to check the progress of negotiations it is impossible to foresee. Lord SALISBURY cheerfully observed in the debate on the Address that he felt more confidence in the stability and success of the international Concert than he did regarding the date of the achievement of

success. It is to be feared that many do not share the Prime Minister's confidence in the Concert, while agreeing with him about the date. Chinese procrastination, of course, is largely responsible for the delay, but it cannot be denied that if there had been more real unity among the Powers the obstinacy of the Chinese Government could not have succeeded so well in putting off the day of settlement. The word "Concert" of late years has come to have rather an unedifying significance, and the present Concert seems hardly likely to add to the good name of these international assemblies. If the representatives of Europe, the States, and Japan employ their abundant time to advantage, the delay may not be altogether unprofitable. At any rate, there will be no excuse if the many questions at issue in China are not well threshed out and the remedies ultimately applied such as meet the exigencies of the case.

THE POLICY OF PERSISTENCE IN CHINA.

(Daily Press, 20th December.)

The policy of persistence is apparently beginning to bear some fruit in China, not only with the Chinese but with foreign Powers like Russia and her follower France. For the Chinese at large, it is to their credit that they have commenced to perceive that they have egregiously stultified themselves, and the ebullition which Russia sought to arouse has not proved so dangerous or successful as those of her statesmen who have been working the issues expected or desired. The telegraphic sketches of Lord SALISBURY's and Mr. McKINLEY's speeches respectively turn out to have largely missed the point of the original, and it would seem that in the main the ideas at first promulgated as to the course negotiations were to take are being adhered to. These consist apparently in the unconditional return of the Emperor in person to Peking; and the intrusive Dowager, whose misconduct really caused all the trouble, is beginning to see that she has become *de trop*, and contemplates retiring into a wise seclusion. She is a woman, she has lost the confidence of all parties in the state, and personally she discovers that she has become but a puppet in the hands of ignorant and dangerous men such as TUNG FUHSIANG and his crew. It is improbable that, if she really and actually takes this course, and refrains from any attempt at interfering in affairs of state, there will be any attempt to bring her to a punishment, which, however, she has abundantly earned. The attempt to rule China from Hsianfu has practically broken down, the Dowager's so-called Imperial Edicts have come to be so much waste paper; and little skilled as her reduced crew of satellites are in the arts of government, they cannot but feel that they are now helpless, and that the time has come when discretion is the best of policies. Meanwhile it is well to remember that this position is causing a state of tension throughout the Empire which its enfeebled constitution is hardly in a state to resist, and if matters are not advanced to a speedy issue, the feeble bonds which prevent the whole from falling into anarchy may any time be snapped. As at the close of the Yuan and Ming dynasties respectively, and as also happened in 1860-65, there are too many signs of the recrudescence of the spirit of mere wanton plunder. Piracy is beginning to raise its head, not only in obscure localities but upon the highways and the coast, and those who visited the basin of the Yangtze during its occupation by the followers of HUNG SIU-SW'EN under-

stand by experience the horrors which such a condition implies. It is fortunate that the physical constitution of the Chinaman prevents him from working himself up to the requisite state of excitement to begin any serious movement till the returning breath of spring has sufficiently thawed his blood; and much may be done by the Germans and English during the intermediate period; but the danger is plainly in the front, and it would be unwise not to take precautions against it in time. The recently published *précis* of the interview between LI and Count VON WALDERSEE indicates that, although the old Viceroy is as willing as ever to bow his head to the inevitable during the continuance of the blast, his heart is with the reactionary party, and no confidence is to be placed in his professions. That he was intimately mixed up in the combination which suppressed the Emperor there is now little doubt; and there is as little that were he restored to power, the old system with all its abuses would rapidly be restored. On the other hand LI, notwithstanding his extraordinary vitality, is not likely to remain long in the way, but there is a danger that too much dependence may be placed on this factor. On the whole, while the present situation is favourable to the cause of order, it is necessary to be prepared for a renewal of trouble; and as a fair amount of co-operation on the part of the Powers can momentarily be brought to bear, it is to be hoped that good use will be made of the present calm to bring matters to an issue.

THE CHINESE AND RESPECT FOR ANTIQUITY.

(Daily Press, 15th December.)

Although, compared with the old empires of Egypt and Babylon, China is but a thing of yesterday, she may yet claim a reasonable antiquity. It is true that the great Emperor TSIN SHIHWANGTI first amalgamated the whole into a single state some two and a quarter centuries before the Christian era, but every schoolboy in China knows that for centuries antecedent there existed numerous kingdoms which, although not always in harmony, still claimed a common descent, and had in this a common bond of union like that that prevailed in old Greece when the curtain of history first opens. China possesses a literature claiming to be of ancient date, and there are undoubted fragments which go back as far as the times of HOMER, and which, though unfortunately overmuch "restored" some two thousand years ago, do throw some light on the antiquities of the land. In these respects China is to the historian fortunately situated when compared with Babylon and Egypt, or even old Greece. As a people the Chinese have, in outward show at least, an exalted reverence for antiquity, and quote as models of government in the present day facts and opinions alleged to be thousands of years old. WEN WANG, for instance, even then as shadowy a sovereign as VOETIGERN to the present generation of Englishmen, was boldly quoted by the sage MENCIUS as an example of all that a monarch should be, and rules of governance within, and precedents for foreign intercourse without, were drawn from his supposed administration of an assumed Empire. With all these things in view, we might with confidence expect to be able to turn to China as *par excellence* the land where antiquities were carefully guarded, and the highest respect was paid to the remains of antiquity. It is one of the most remarkable things connected with a remarkable people with whom duality is a primary instinct, that in nothing is the strange gulf which

in China exists between precept and practice more clearly, exhibited than the contempt with which, in the face of the most exalted professions to the contrary, the Chinaman treats the few remains of antiquity he has permitted to survive. All Europe when the news came to it of the sacking and destruction of the Summer Palace at Peking was shocked at the vandalism of the deed. Not so the Chinaman, who, until prompted by his Western instructors, saw nothing in it he would not himself have done, without a momentary thought that the damage he was doing was irretrievable, and that the crime was against human nature itself. No one is readier than the average Chinaman to unite the pretence of the most lofty sentiments with the practise of the meanest vice. Alone perhaps of human beings, he is able to profess belief in three incompatible religions, while practising none. It was an apt illustration of this peculiar phase of Chinese character that, while the handful of foreigners shut up in the British Legation grounds in Peking, expecting daily to be barbarously murdered did their assailants once get an entrance, were hesitating in their respect for the records of the past to inflict any damage on the buildings containing the library of the Hanlin College, the Chinese in their indifference to anything else than their momentary passions deliberately set the torch to a library which in China occupied the place of the great historical collections at the British Museum or the Louvre. As a fact, the destruction of the building really added to the strength of the foreigners' position, but that is neither here nor there in the argument, as the destruction proceeded from no such benevolent cause. If, turning away from this latest instance of the national disregard for its antiquities, we look abroad through the empire, the total absence of any visible record of the past is as complete as in the islands of the Pacific, where want of space has been the enforced cause of the occupation of every available inch of ground. Want of space is, however, not the cause in China, where nothing is so remarkable as the encumbrance of the soil with the remains of the past generation, only, after the lapse of the next two or at most three generations, to be destroyed, and with as little compunction as may be ousted to make way for those who followed, and whose influence for mischief in the family position may still be potent. Even the savages who lived in past ages along the coasts of the Atlantic Ocean have left their remains in long mounds which subsequent ages have for the most part respected, and in which the explorer of the present can find interred a rough history of the past. In the ruins of Egypt and Mesopotamia the modern historian has been able to carry authentic history back for a space certainly approaching six thousand years, and much knowledge as to the progress of civilisation in the past has been thereby accumulated which otherwise would have been lost. In the buildings of these and many other nations the makers had ideas beyond the mere moment, and the hope of handing down their history to succeeding generations, long after their own had passed from view, was ever the predominant feeling. They in fact devoted of their best to futurity, and nothing in the way of art nor expense was too good to be employed in these monuments, which now, after a lapse of thousands of years, are beginning to yield up to modern exploration their treasures. Even when we come to India, late though the period of writing came into vogue, we find the same care taken on their monumental works, and if we cannot from

the monuments learn the secrets of written history, we can at least judge of the condition of the arts at successive periods. When we come to China, alone of all the nations pretending to antiquity, an utter absence of any feeling of the sort meets us. Chinese art from the beginning has been mere shoddy, and the spirit of the jerry-builder has presided in the erection of the stateliest edifices. The consequence is that we seek in vain for any edifice more than at most a century or two old. The city of Tientsin has existed on its present site for probably the last three thousand years, yet we search in vain for a stone or an inscribed brick extending even to the time of the Mings. According to MARCO POLO, Chinkiang in his days was the seat of an important Christian community, yet not one trace is left. The only remaining monument of the former prevalence of this faith is the steeple at Hsianfu, yet within the few years that it has been disclosed it has been permitted from sheer carelessness to drop into decay. A yamen or a temple once built, and built, be it observed, of the shoddiest of materials, is never repaired till it falls of sheer decay, and in its decay, instead of a noble and picturesque ruin such as we find in nearly every village in the West, presents nothing more graceful than a heap of rubbish of bricks and plaster mixed with a few rough and rotten poles no better than we might expect to find from the decay of an ordinary farm building. A few rifled mounds, given over to the agriculturist to do his worst to, are all that remain of the tombs of the ancient monarchs of Ts'i, who, if they had no other recommendation, are of interest in connection with the Chinese sage, CONFUCIUS, and a few nearly levelled tumuli are all the external evidence remaining in lower Kiangsu of the once important kingdom of Wu, to which Japan owed its earliest lessons in civilisation.

THE FRENCH IN SWATOW NEIGHBOURHOOD.

(Daily Press, 19th December.)

Our readers will remember that our Swatow correspondent wrote last month of the mischievous action of the French gunboat *Comète*, which arrived at Swatow from Canton on the 13th November and proceeded northward along the coast to Tchian Na, a great trading centre. Our correspondent gave instances of the high-handed way in which the French had acted, and deplored the evil effect which this conduct was having on the local officials and people, who were reduced to a state of panic. The exaction of indemnities for destruction of mission property from villagers who had not themselves been guilty of the outrages was described as unjust, and fear was expressed that the much talked-of rebellion might actually break out, if the *Comète* persisted in her course of action. Now, presuming that our correspondent did not write without due examination into the reports, which we have every reason to believe he did not, it cannot be said that his language was intemperate or his remarks unjustifiable. Our contemporary, *L'Avenir du Tonkin*, however, evidently thinks so, for in its issue of the 10th-11th instant there is a translation of part of our correspondent's letter, with a comment appended which we refrain from translating for fear of spoiling the force of the original. It runs as follows:—
 "Nota. Nos bons amis les Anglais sont furieux de nous voir nous immiscer dans les affaires de Chine et agir vigoureusement aux environs de Canton. C'est tout au plus s'ils ne nous traiteraient pas de sauvages et de barbares. John Bull se

"ronge les poings de rage, parce qu'il est impuissant et que les Boers lui dament le pion dans l'Afrique du Sud, mais... la have du crapaud n'atteint pas la blanche colombe, si tant est que la colombe est blanche."

The reference to South Africa was, of course, inevitable; no remarks about *les Anglais* would be complete without it. If the impotence due to the fact that "the Boers have outplayed us" is manifested in our refraining from disturbing districts where there is no trouble existing, then the result is excellent. But we have not been so tied up in South Africa as not to be able to land troops where they are wanted. It is not the lack of resources which British residents in China have had to complain of, but the ignorance and inaction of the home authorities and their unwillingness to use the resources at hand. As for French intervention in Chinese affairs, it has been welcomed in common with that of the other Powers, as long as French action does not run counter to the policy of the Allies. But independent French action near Swatow is no more welcome than independent Russian action at Newchwang or independent Japanese action at Amoy. For the same reason the British policy of landing troops at Shanghai was objected to; but in this case there was no harrying of natives or stirring up trouble where all was quiet. Shanghai had been in an excited state for months and there was a strong call from no small part of the foreign residents for more protection. France, Germany, and Japan have admitted this since by landing troops "for the protection of the Settlements." What was legitimately censured in the proceedings of the *Comète* was that the "white dove" by its "vigorous" behaviour was threatening the peace of the whole Swatow neighbourhood, scaring inoffensive natives, and arousing fears that the predicted rebellion might actually become a fact. The question of compensation for damage to mission property generally is included among the points under the consideration of the peace negotiators. There is, therefore, an obvious impropriety in any one nation exacting compensation on its own account. No denial has been published of the *Comète's* conduct. In such cases conscious innocence is not apt to remain silent. It is therefore not unfair to assume that our correspondent's charges are founded on fact.

THE PROGRESS OF THE CONCERT.

(Daily Press, 21st December.)

Reuter's telegram of the 18th instant states that Mr. HAY's cabled instructions to the U.S. Minister at Peking remove certain obstacles, making it probable that all the Ministers will sign the joint Note to China. It is unfortunately impossible to gather from this in what way the Note is thereby likely to be modified. The United States have all through the preliminary discussions on the subject of the terms to be demanded of China thrown their influence into the scale in favour of leniency, and it may therefore be surmised that obstacles which can be removed by American action are obstacles in the way of presenting a firm attitude toward the Chinese Government in the matter of reparation for its misdeeds, and the outrages inflicted by its agents on the persons and property of foreigners. More than this it is not possible as yet to say. But the intelligence that the Allies are even one step nearer the accomplishment of their task is welcome. Recent events and reports have

led to the suspicion that all the Powers were gradually weakening in determination, and, whether from sheer weariness or from other cause, were yielding to Chinese diplomacy another such victory as it has so often gained over Western nations. It looked as if the difficulties raised by the Chinese respecting the punishment of Princes and other high officials were to carry the day; indeed, we cannot even now say that this pitiable result may not be arrived at. If this is to be the case, let us at least hope that it will not be accompanied by the old and vicious expedient of exacting a large money indemnity from the Chinese people. It would be better to leave the outrages on missionaries and others unpunished than resort once more to this discreditable mockery of justice. But apart from our forebodings of what action the "Concert" is likely to take, on analogy with past history, divination of what demands will finally be presented by the Powers which will be accepted by China is impossible.

THE NIGHTMARE OF IMPERIALISM.

(Daily Press, 17th December.)

In the *Echo de Chine* of the 12th instant appears a long article signed E. JUDET on "The Three Imperialisms," in which the writer looks very gloomily on the growth of imperialistic sentiment in Great Britain, Germany, and the United States of America. M. JUDET is convinced that the future of France is seriously threatened by the prospect of harmony between these three Powers. He says indeed that France's only hope is that these three imperialisms, competing and conflicting, will limit and counteract one another, or will come into collision to their mutual destruction. Should unlucky chance or Mr. CHAMBERLAIN succeed in uniting them to divide the world between them, unenviable will be the lot of France! The traditional object of French diplomacy, he says elsewhere, was to keep the balance between the two rival forces of Britain and Germany. The blow which this diplomacy has received by the drawing together of the two countries is the heaviest received for many long years; and, he continues in anticlimax, Fashoda is painfully aggravated by the tactics of Mr. CHAMBERLAIN. What use was there, he asks, in showing such meekness at the time of the DREYFUS case in face of the Press across the Channel and across the Rhine, only to see the two countries unite so closely, and of course against France? The return of President MCKINLEY to power means the addition of a third imperial power, and M. JUDET shudders at the fate of the rest of the world if these great empires act in unison. Until the realisation of the magnificent dream of universal federation, the partial associations which result from the growth of Imperialism will develop such mighty strength, that at the side of these giants societies of the intermediate order will find no honourable place left to them in the world, unless they redouble their own vigour and pugnacity. For this reason, concludes the writer, France defends so hotly the ideas of nationality and country; by these alone can she save herself from ruin and annihilation, for they are the only barriers against "Imperialism and anarchy, the invariable prelude of death."

Whatever be the merits of his case, the French writer spoils it by his exaggerations and his unwarrantable interpretations of events. He makes of Mr. CHAMBERLAIN a

Titanic figure, which in reality the Secretary of State for the Colonies is not, great as are his abilities. Then M. JUDET has not forgotten Fashoda, sharing the length of memory on this point common to publicists of his nation. Passing over his reference to French "meekness" at the time of the DREYFUS affair, we may well ask him for a support to his theory of an anti-French *entente* between Britain and Germany. It hardly would seem worth the while of those who like the Emperor WILLIAM II. and Mr. CHAMBERLAIN aim at dividing the world (with the possible assistance of Mr. MCKINLEY) to trouble so much about France. But the chimæra of Gallic invention is too absurd to call for further comment. It must be relegated to the same place as the Yellow Peril and other fictions of over-active brains. The Imperialism by which so much danger to the world is threatened is admitted by the writer to be the natural external outcome of internal prosperity, but he can see no prospect for the other nations except by the conflict, even the mutual destruction of the imperialist Powers. If they work hand in hand, they must be aiming at dividing the plunder of the rest of world. It will be noted that Russia is left entirely out of the question by M. JUDET, presumably on the same grounds which always keep French writers silent on the subject of Russian expansion. And yet of the nations which may now be described as "imperialist" Russia is the one who can least ascribe her aggrandising tendencies to other than political reasons. Britain, Germany, and the United States, apart from any desire to expand their possessions, are forced to find gradually new fields for the growth of their commerce, or the source of their great wealth must fail. Russia's commercial designs are of the future. We need not therefore call her expansion less natural, but there is certainly no reason why it should be looked on with complacency, while the growth of the British, German, and American empires are pictured as nightmares. The most dangerous and unpleasant feature of imperialistic movements is the "Jingoism" which accompanies them. But "Jingoism" is very much in evidence in France, although (of course) there is no such thing as Imperialism there. The extremists are always to the fore in any movement, but it is not a mark of wisdom to take them as typical of the whole. One of the earliest acts of Imperialist England was to leave British interests to the care of Russian troops in North Chihli and at Newchwang. Nor is it easy to see what the proposed dividers of the spoils of a world are planning to get for themselves out of the present crisis in China.

The U.S. Consul at Bangkok says of the recently established Japanese Museum of Commerce there that it is proving an increasing success. The Oriental merchant, he says, has little use for catalogues, price lists, and pictorial advertisements. He objects to the commercial traveller for the reason that his samples go with him, and he leaves nothing to enable the purchaser to compare the goods delivered with those ordered. At Bangkok, the samples can be inspected and the goods compared with the samples; the merchant can deal with a firm that is established in his city, and the goods are not to be paid for until he is satisfied that they are what he ordered. The straightforward manner of fixing the purchasing price appeals both to the Eastern and Western mind. The patrons of the museum are by no means confined to the mercantile class, and the European population of the city are availing themselves in no small degree of this opportunity of doing business with a splendidly stocked Japanese bazaar.

THE CRISIS: TELEGRAMS.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENTS.]

SHANGHAI, 14th December, 8.37 p.m.

An Imperial Decree authorises the Chinese plenipotentiaries, Prince Ching and Li Hung-chang, to place the Imperial seal on their credentials.

Tientsin telegraphs that the Germans have routed General Mei at Tsangchou, looted the baggage, killed forty-three, and have released some notorious Boxers whom he imprisoned, which the British greatly regret, General Mei having steadily suppressed the Boxers and befriended missions.

Chinese official telegrams report that a French force is marching on Taiyuanfu.

Li Hung-chang telegraphs to a prominent native banker here that the prospect of peace is nearing.

SHANGHAI, 17th December, 10.25 p.m.

Ching Sing, the Manchu official who was lately Treasurer of Honan, and who was equally guilty of the outrages with the Governor, Yu Chang, assumes the seals to-morrow as Governor of Hupeh.

SHANGHAI, 18th December, 7.24 p.m.

An Imperial Decree authorises the sale of official ranks for the relief of the famine in Shansi and Shensi.

Another decree appoints Sheng, late Taotai of Shanghai, with the Governor of Chekiang, to settle the questions connected with the Chuchou massacre.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

On Monday, the 17th inst., a meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council was held in the Council Chamber at the Government Offices, there being present:—

HIS EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR (Sir HENRY BLAKE, G.C.M.G.).

Hon. J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, C.M.G. (Colonial Secretary).

Hon. W. MEIGH GOODMAN, Q.C. (Attorney-General).

Hon. A. M. THOMSON (Colonial Treasurer).

Hon. R. D. ORMSBY (Director of Public Works).

Hon. F. H. MAY, C.M.G. (Captain Superintendent of Police).

Hon. BASIL TAYLOR (Acting Harbour Master).

Hon. C. P. CHATER, C.M.G.

Hon. J. J. KESWICK.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI.

Hon. JOHN THURBURN.

Hon. WEI A YUK.

Mr. C. CLEMENTI (Acting Clerk of Councils).

FINANCIAL.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table Financial Minute No. 70 and moved that it be referred to the Finance Committee.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded and the motion was carried.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table the report of the Finance Committee (No. 19), and moved its adoption.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded and the motion was carried.

THE REGULATION OF THE POLICE FORCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the second reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to consolidate and amend the Law for the establishment and regulation of the Police Force of the Colony. He said—The Law at present in force is Ordinance No. 14 of 1887. That Ordinance has been amended on two occasions—firstly, by Ordinance 20 of 1890, secondly, by Ordinance 22 of 1895—and further amendments have become necessary, owing to the increase in the force caused by the acquisition of the New Territory, and by the fact that the present Ordinance makes no provision for the appointment of assistant superintendents. The old

Ordinance had a schedule to it, and this has been found a very inconvenient manner of providing for the establishment, because every time you alter the constitution of the force by adding officers or men, or altering the distribution of the men, it necessitates an Act of Parliament and the passing of a new schedule. Looking at the Straits Settlements Ordinance, I find that, instead of being included in the schedule, the establishment of the force is provided for by an enactment equivalent to section 3 of this Ordinance, which provides for the constitution of the force and enacts that "the Governor may also authorise the engagement for the service of the Police Department such clerks, coxswains, engineers, stokers, seamen, boatmen, and other employees as may, from time to time, be provided for by the Governor and Legislative Council by annual vote or otherwise." The only really new sections in the Ordinance are sections 3 and 4, which take the place of the old schedule I mentioned, and of sections 4 and 5 of Ordinance 14 of 1887. In making the consolidation of the Ordinances in force some of the language used in the Act of 1887 has been found obsolete now. For instance, we do not speak now of "Colonial Surgeon," but say "Principal Civil Medical Officer," and such like alterations. Substantially the Ordinance before you is just as the law stands at the present time, with the exceptions of sections 3 and 4. I beg to move the second reading.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was carried.

The Council then went into committee and considered the bill clause by clause.

On the Council resuming, no material alterations having been made in the Bill in committee, the Bill, on the motion of the ATTORNEY-GENERAL, seconded by the COLONIAL SECRETARY, was read a third time and passed.

THE BANKRUPTCY ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—The next item in the Orders of the day is "Second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to further amend the Bankruptcy Ordinance, 1891. He said—This Bill was only published in the *Gazette* on Saturday last, and consequently it may be advisable that the second reading should stand over until the next meeting of the Council. Any of the public feeling interested in the subject and wishing to make representations to the Colonial Secretary or myself will be at liberty to do so.

The second reading was accordingly allowed to stand over.

NATURALISATION.

The Bill entitled an Ordinance for the Naturalisation of Chan Ping Hung, alias Chan Shek Shan, was read a second time, and after it had been considered in committee it was read a third time and passed.

THE ARMS AND AMMUNITION ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL proposed the second reading of a Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend the Arms and Ammunition Ordinance, 1900. He said—This Bill amends the Ordinance which was passed by this Council not long ago. That Ordinance was of some importance and it was sent home and I think there was a protest sent with it. In reply the Secretary of State in his despatch of the 28th June, 1900, approved of the Ordinance, but suggested two slight amendments, and these two amendments appear in sections 3 and 4 of the Bill. Section 2 of the Bill explains the meaning of the word "importer" as including "every person, whether a commission agent or otherwise, to whom, or to whose order, arms or ammunition landed in this Colony are consigned." It was found that commission agents were getting arms sent into the colony on commission and they said they were not importers. Rather than have any discussion about it it was thought better to make the meaning more clear by legislation. It is perfectly clear that a commission agent who imports goods into the colony is an importer; he is a man who brings or causes to be brought arms into the colony. As regards the third section, that deals with a difficulty suggested in the memorandum submitted by the arms-dealers. They seemed to say that if a coolie was carrying a gun belonging to his master he might be held to be liable. I do not think I should hold that if I were a Magistrate. I should say that if you are one of the exempted parties

a coolie carrying your gun for you would not be liable to arrest. But rather than have any difficulty the Secretary of State thought it better that it should be made clear that such a person should not be liable. With regard to section 4, honourable members will remember that by section 9 of the principal Ordinance it is provided that when arms and ammunition not covered by a permit are found on a junk, everybody found on the junk was held liable. This section has been amended by adding, at the end thereof, the following proviso:—"Provided that every person proceeded against under this section shall be a competent but not compellable witness, and that no person shall be liable to any punishment under this section if it is proved to the satisfaction of the Magistrate that he was not the person in charge, but was on board as a *bona fide* passenger or member of the crew and was neither a party to, nor aware of, the presence of any such arms or ammunition on board." Section 5 deals with a technical quibble which was taken before the Magistrate recently, making it incumbent upon the arms-dealer to ask the name and address of the purchaser. The amendment to section 15 is necessary because, without inspection of stock, the accuracy or otherwise of the stock book cannot be ascertained. The object of the substitution of section 7 for section 18 of the principal Ordinance is to enable the Government to know what arms and ammunition are imported into the colony. Section 8 of this Ordinance is new and is intended to meet cases where arms, etc., are shipped for some port beyond the colony but are landed here because the ship does not go so far as to the port of destination. In the absence of a bonded warehouse and of a customs house in the colony the arms once landed are under the control of the person in whose custody they are, and unless they are constantly watched by the police, there is no guarantee that they might not, in some instances, eventually find their way to some place other than the original port of destination. Hence it is desirable that the police should know where they are. Section 9 prevents the application of sections 2 and 8 where the arms or ammunition are consigned for the use of Her Majesty's Military or Naval Forces."

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was carried.

The Bill was then considered in committee clause by clause.

On the Council resuming the Bill was read a third time and passed.

PROPOSED REVISION OF THE STATUTE LAWS OF THE COLONY.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL proposed the second reading of an Ordinance to make provision for the Preparation and Publication of a New and Revised Edition of the Statute Laws of the Colony. He said—The "objects and reasons" attached at the foot of the Bill explain it as concisely as possible, and it will be sufficient if I read them. They are as follows:—"The Concise Edition of the Laws of the Colony is now out of print, as also are several of the annual collections of Ordinances enacted since 1890. It has therefore been thought advisable to make arrangements for the preparation of a new and revised edition of the laws, and the Secretary of State has approved of such arrangements being made. The Chief Justice has offered to prepare such an edition, without payment, and it is proposed by this Bill that he should be appointed a Commissioner for that purpose, with certain specified powers. These powers are similar to the powers which were vested in him when he was preparing new and revised editions of the laws of St. Lucia and Tobago, and, although fuller and more precise, they are not dissimilar to the powers which were exercised, without legislative sanction, by the compiler of the Concise Edition." I think we are all agreed that the time has come when a new edition of the laws is required. There have been many amendments since Mr. Leach's book was brought out, and so many important Ordinances have been passed during the ten past years that there is great need for a new edition. The preparation of that new edition will take up a good deal of time, but I think there is no one better qualified than the Chief Justice, who has revised two sets of laws in other colonies, to undertake the work. (Applause.)

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, in seconding, said—I beg to endorse the remarks of the Attorney-General with regard to Sir John Carrington. I think the colony is to be congratulated on having obtained his services for carrying out this important duty. (Hear, hear.) On the Council resuming the Bill was read a third time and passed.

ADJOURNMENT.

It was decided to adjourn *sine die*.

THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS.

His EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR—Before we adjourn I may mention that there is no further business to come before us this year. A short time ago a proposal was sent in from the various banks to the effect that as Tuesday and Wednesday of next week would be public holidays it would be advisable that I should declare Monday to be a public holiday as well. Having regard to the fact that there is a large amount of business done here I thought it advisable not to settle the matter before sending it to the Chamber of Commerce for consideration. The Chamber of Commerce have now added their recommendation to that of the managers of the various banks, and therefore I have declared Monday as well as Tuesday and Wednesday to be a public holiday next week. Therefore nothing now remains for me, gentlemen, but to wish you all a happy Christmas and a pleasant holiday. (Hear, hear.)

MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was held immediately after the meeting of the Council, the Colonial Secretary presiding.

The CHAIRMAN said he had only one minute to bring before the committee, and that was one in which the Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$6,954.40 to cover the cost of the erection of a Signal Station at Green Island. This expenditure had been incurred in connection with the erection of a signalling station at Green Island with a view to improving the signalling of vessels coming into the harbour from the south. As members of the committee were aware it is often impossible on account of fog to signal the approach of vessels from the Peak, and therefore they arrived in the harbour before people had been notified of their approach. This new signalling station would obviate that difficulty. No doubt they would all agree that this was a very desirable improvement and that money expended in this direction would be money well spent. (Hear, hear.) With regard to this vote, there would be no further meeting of the Council this year, and it was perhaps not regular for the money to be expended before the vote had been confirmed by the Council; but under the circumstances he thought he might take it that the committee would not object as members of the Council to the money being expended this year.

No objection was raised and the vote was passed.

This was all the business.

Another step was taken in the hearing of the charge arising out of the West Hongkow shooting affray at Shanghai on Saturday week last, when Mr. Burrows, the Magistrate, took the evidence of the wounded soldier Beblo at the camp hospital. He said that on the day of the assault he was in company with a comrade named Lohmann at a tea house in the North Honan Road. A disturbance occurred concerning the quality of the tea, and a crowd collected round the door. He drew his bayonet to frighten the Chinese away. Subsequently a man in uniform sat down at the table with them and they all drank tea together. They went out afterwards and walked along several streets, he having his arm hooked with that of the man in uniform. They had not gone far before they reached a court yard where there were some steps. He mounted the steps with the man in uniform and when he reached the top he felt his bayonet was being drawn out; at the same time the man in uniform held a revolver at his chest. He shouted "My bayonet! my bayonet!" and heard a report. He felt his left arm drop as though some one had struck him a blow on the muscles. He then ran away, and getting into a ricksha reached the camp, whence he was sent to Hospital. The witness was cross-examined by Mr. McNeill, and the proceedings then terminated.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

On Thursday afternoon, 20th inst., a meeting of the Hongkong Sanitary Board was held. The President (the Hon. R. D. Ormsby) Director of Public Works, occupied the chair, and there were also present Dr. Bell (Acting Principal Civil Medical Officer), Mr. J. McKie, Dr. Hartigan, Mr. E. Osborne, Dr. F. Clark (Medical Officer of Health), Mr. Chan A. Fook, and Mr. G. A. Woodcock (Secretary).

BUSINESS POSTPONED.

The PRESIDENT said that with regard to item No. 2 on the agenda the Vice-President, Hon. Mr. May, had written him to say he would not ask his question till next meeting, and Mr. Osborne had also decided to adopt a similar step concerning his resolution, item No. 3 on the agenda.

The Hon. F. H. May's question was:—"What steps have the Board taken in answer to an invitation made to the Board in May last by direction of the Officer Administering the Government to formulate a scheme of sanitary improvements in this Colony?"

Mr. Osborne's motion was:—"That in regard to the Acting Colonial Secretary's letter to the Sanitary Board of 1st May, 1900, asking the Board to formulate a comprehensive scheme of sanitary improvements, a reply be sent that the Board are not disposed to formulate such a scheme unless some assurance be forthcoming that the Government will give immediate effect to some at least of the Board's recommendations."

THE PROPOSED USE OF WATERING CARTS.

The following reply (dated Dec. 13th) relative to the proposed use of watering carts was submitted from the Colonial Secretary:—

"With reference to your minute of the 23rd ult. relative to the proposed use of watering carts in the streets of Hongkong, I am directed to request you to be good enough to furnish me with a full statement of the reasons why the Sanitary Board are of opinion that the present system should be altered for that now proposed. I am also to refer you to the minute of the Medical Officer of Health of the 16th October last in C. S. O. No. 217 of 1900, of which I enclose a copy, and to enquire why the views of the Medical Officer of Health have not found acceptance among the other members of the Board."

Dr. Hartigan minuted:—"Because we are now living in the 19th century and not in the dark ages, to which alone the present system, which is no system, is applicable."

Mr. OSBORNE said—In regard to this matter it is common knowledge throughout the world that the dust of streets affords a dangerous medium for spreading disease, and the Sanitary Board, desiring to introduce a more efficient method of street watering than the "bucket" system at present in vogue, after obtaining information from Shanghai on the subject, decided that so far as the crowded lower levels were concerned the work should be done by carts, and having obtained tenders for the construction of a few carts as an experiment Government was asked to approve the expenditure. Nothing could more forcibly illustrate the ridiculous position in which this Board stands in the carrying out of sanitary improvements or the spirit of jealousy that thwarts almost every effort we make, than the reply now before us, which practically amounts to a refusal to adopt the Board's recommendation even in so paltry a matter as the building of half a dozen watering carts. I beg to move that a reply be sent that the Board disapproves of the present method of watering the lower levels, and consider that watering by carts should be substituted at once.

Dr. HARTIGAN said—Mr. President, I have a motion somewhat on the same lines as Mr. Osborne's, and perhaps Mr. Osborne would not mind adopting it. There seems to have been some misunderstanding regarding this watering question. I certainly did not understand the M.O.H. to object to the proposed scheme *per se*, but simply said that in his opinion things were at present working fairly well, and that the improved scheme would entail much additional expense, and that we had already exceeded our allowance. All improvements are expensive and the only question to be considered is one well worth the additional cost. No one can ride in a carriage for the same price as he can jog

along in donkey cart. No one can say our present arrangements are perfect. They are on the contrary sloppy, wasteful, and ineffective. Carts besides being in every way more suitable will actually make a large saving of fresh water; the sea-water can be pumped into these carts. Besides traffic has enormously increased lately with corresponding wear and tear of the roads, so that the cost will be more than compensated by the improved method. I trust the local Government will not treat us as Downing Street treated the colony in the matter of electric lighting, where, because electricity did not suit upper Tooting, it was gross impertinence for Hongkong to want it. This is surely a rate-payers' question, and they may be allowed to spend their own money in the most advantageous manner. I beg to propose:—"That the Government be informed that, the Board have considered the views of the Medical Officer of Health as to the greater cost of street-watering by means of carts, and are of the opinion that the greater efficiency of this method will more than compensate for the increased cost. We propose, moreover, to limit the use of the carts to the lower levels, as suggested by the Medical Officer of Health."

Mr. OSBORNE expressed his willingness to withdraw his motion and to second that of Dr. Hartigan.

Dr. BELL said that while he was in agreement with the proposal as to the sending of a letter, he thought some sort of explanation ought to be offered to the Government as to why they wanted a more expensive method of watering the streets on the lower levels. The explanation was a very simple one. There was a tremendous amount of vehicular traffic in Queen's Road and a necessity of laying the dust which did not exist to the same extent, if it existed at all, on the higher levels.

The motion was carried.

REPORT OF THE QUARTERLY INSPECTION COMMITTEE.

PAINFUL STATE OF THINGS AT WANCHAI.

Messrs. E. Osborne and J. McKie (the Inspection Committee) submitted their fourth quarterly report. It ran as follows:—

"On the 4th inst., in company with Inspectors Hoggarth and McKenzie, we visited the Wanchai District, the general appearance of which shows an improvement in cleanliness. The houses occupied by coolies were, as usual, the dirtiest, and considering that the wages of this class have of late improved, we think an endeavour should be made to compel a little cleanliness in their dwellings and pressure brought to bear upon the licencees of the houses where they live.

"The upward tendency of rents continues, and until relief is provided there is little hope of any real or lasting improvement in the sanitary condition of the slums. In Albany Street \$3.50 is the cost of a space eight feet square wherein to accommodate parents, children, and possibly a relative or two. The state of affairs which compels a coolie earning probably \$7 a month to pay \$3.50 rent for a wretched hovel eight feet square is not calculated to improve the sanitary condition of the town.

"Floors in Nullah Lane accommodating 12 ricksha coolies fetch \$12, while a whole house of three upper floors in this street is let for \$64. The sunshades of Nullah Lane should be removed if, as we understand, they are illegal, for so little sunshine can possibly pierce the gloom and dust of these premises that a sunshade cannot, we think, be a necessity, and is distinctly undesirable.

"Wanchai Market is greatly improved by its coat of whitewash and paint, and it is to be hoped the Government will repeat this cleansing every half year.

"On our last visit to Shek Kai Lane we made suggestions which we regret to find have not been entirely carried out, and the alterations that have been made do not appear satisfactory. We recommend these houses to the special attention of the Board.

"In Sham Pin Lane there is a terrace of comparatively new houses, the ground-floors of which are dark and ill-ventilated—so dark indeed that the inmates at 5 p.m. were eating their meal by rushlight. The doorway measures 27 feet, the window 16 feet, and the floor area 546 feet, and we recommend the Board's attention to these houses also.

"Between Wing Tak Lane and Wing Fung Street is a block of new houses of the modern type and concerning which, whilst they were in course of erection, the Board drew public attention. These houses fully deserve the criticisms passed upon them at the time and serve to show the necessity of compelling back lanes as well as backyards in new buildings. The only provision for ventilation and light is a small square shaft (built in accordance with the law) which we consider inadequate for the purpose.

"The crowds of so-called hawkers in Nullah Lane, Cross Street, Wing Fung Street, and other places is a matter which, though to refer to it means re-opening a very vexed question, vitally affects the health and well-being of the colony. The whole of Wing Fung Street, a street 20 feet wide, is lined on either side with hawkers' stalls, leaving but a narrow passage for traffic, and one enterprising man had even gone the length of placing a 12-foot table, spread with white cloth, on which were displayed eggs, condensed milk, tea, coffee, buns, and other sweet-meats. *Bona-fide* hawking is a convenience and a necessity to the poor, but these are not hawkers; they are traders pure and simple driven into the streets by impossible rents, choking the drains with garbage, creating noise and disorder wherever they settle, and elbowing back into the polluted atmosphere of their dwellings people who but for them, after the day's work is over, would be enjoying such fresh air as the streets afford.

"The whole town east and west, go where you will, appears to be more overcrowded every day, and high rents, congested streets, polluted drains, filth and plague, point with unmistakable warning to the great need that exists for more space, more room for expansion.

"P.S.—Though not coming within the scope of this report, we think it right to say that the verandah pillars of houses Nos. 49 and 51, Queen's Road East, were pointed out to us as being badly cracked and liable to collapse."

The following minutes were appended:—

Dr. Clark—"The committee's previous report on Shek Kai Lane stated that more ventilation both on ground and first floors can easily be provided from the back. This has since been done by the opening out of one-half of the kitchens under Ordinance 34 of 1899. The lane is only six feet wide, and has three-storey buildings on one side and two-storey buildings on the other side. The only remaining remedy is to ask the Magistrate to close the premises as unfit for human habitation. The houses in Sham Pin Lane comply with the law as to backyards, but the ground-floor rooms are dark. The Magistrate might be induced to order the provision of more open space in the rear. The question of sunshades in Nullah Lane and the condition of the surface of the lanes should be referred by the Board to the Public Works Department, while the petty traders who erect stalls in Crown streets, under the excuse of being hawkers, can only be dealt with by the police, who are at present very lenient to these offenders."

Major Brown—"This report discloses a painful state of things, and should be widely known. The Sanitary Board ought to urge upon Government the necessity of prohibiting hawkers setting up in (and practically blocking) any street under, say, 50 feet."

Dr. Hartigan—"This report should be most carefully considered. It opens up a very large question. A housing for the working classes scheme seems the only remedy. The law as it stands seems unable to make healthy dwellings. I can corroborate the statement about hawkers and their garbage. The police appear not to interfere with them. Why?"

The Hon. F. H. May—"I have stated before officially and publicly that I decline to make a crusade against hawkers in the present condition of the city, unless I am specially instructed to the contrary. Messrs. McKie and Osborne aptly describe the situation when they say these hawkers are driven into the street by impossible rents."

Mr. OSBORNE moved that the report be forwarded to the Government and to the newspapers, and also that the attention of the Government be called to this question of so-called hawking. These men, as had been pointed out in the report, crowded the streets—especially the side streets—sometimes selling wares ex-

actly the same as those sold by the shopkeepers immediately behind them. They were no more hawkers in the true sense of the word than were shopkeepers. Their place of business was in the street—a fixture. A *bona fide* hawker was not a fixture. He went about the town, and his great utility lay in the fact that he took to the homes of the poor the food which perhaps they were unable to procure for themselves. The Chinese hawker did not in the slightest sense do that. He only monopolised a large proportion of very narrow thoroughfares, and was not only not a necessity but a positive nuisance. Under these circumstances, continued Mr. Osborne, he thought that, in spite of the Vice-President's minute, and in spite of his known antipathy to moving in this matter, they ought to ask the Government to take some steps to remedy the evil, so far as it was an evil. He would not ask the Government to abolish the *bona fide* hawker, but that they should instruct the police to stop those men who set up their tables in the street, and who did not even take the trouble to carry their wares about. The motion he had to submit was: "That the Board request the Government to give directions prohibiting the erection of stalls in the public streets and footpaths by so-called hawkers, who should be restricted to *bona fide* hawking."

Mr. McKIE had great pleasure in seconding the resolution. He could verify all that Mr. Osborne had said.

Mr. CHAN A FOOK doubted the advisability of interfering with what Mr. Osborne had called the "shop hawker." His place was not a fixture; it was very likely put up in the morning and moved in the evening, and if the shopkeepers in front of whose premises he erected his stall did not object or lodge any complaint with the Government, it would be very inadvisable for the Board to interfere in the matter. He therefore opposed the recommendation.

The PRESIDENT said he had not yet made up his mind on the subject. He thought, however, that the food stalls might be a necessity, and as Mr. Chan A Fook had pointed out, if the shopkeepers themselves did not complain, the only objection that could be taken would be one of obstruction. To his mind, there was nothing particularly unhealthy in the erection of a table in the street. At the same time, he had a very open mind on the question.

The motion was then put to the meeting and carried.

Dr. CLARK, dealing with the congested state of dwellings in Shek Kai Lane and Sham Pin Lane, commented on the report of the Inspection Committee, and said he himself had seen the houses, and he was of opinion that they could very easily and very rapidly be improved. He wished to move: "That notices be served on the owners of houses in Shek Kai Lane and Sham Pin Lane declaring the said premises to be unfit for human habitation, and requiring the owners to make further provision for their adequate lighting and ventilation."

Dr. BELL was of opinion that the proper procedure in such cases, if any place was deemed unfit for human habitation, was to declare it unfit, and then to take such vigorous steps as would ensure that these houses would be put into order and made habitable. If that were done little by little—if they made themselves obnoxious—these people would very probably pull the houses down or make the repairs themselves. He therefore had much pleasure in seconding the motion.

The recommendation was put to the meeting and unanimously carried.

THE PROPOSED NEW WESTERN MARKET.

A plan of the proposed new Western Market was submitted.

The following minutes were appended:—

Dr. Hartigan:—"A report might be obtained from Mr. Ladds, particularly as to accommodation, situation, number of stalls and general adaptability to Chinese wants. See Mr. Osborne's note. The Central Market is always wet also. Water after washing should have very full exit."

Mr. Osborne—"It is to be hoped that the New Western Market will be better lighted than the Central."

The PRESIDENT said that these plans had been prepared in consultation with the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon, who was rather a difficult

man to please in every respect. However, he had no objection to calling for Mr. Ladds' report. The Medical Officer of Health had approved the plans.

Mr. McKIE thought that seeing that Mr. Ladds would have most to do with the Western Market it would be advisable to get his report.

Mr. OSBORNE, in referring to his minute, said the Central Market was absurdly dark. In the middle of the day the stall-holders in the centre had to burn lamps. He believed that in other parts of the world—in Shanghai, for instance—people were able to build a Market where light could enter in the middle of the day, and he did not see why they should not have a similar thing in Hongkong. God gave them in Hongkong the same amount of light as was given to Shanghai, and he did not see why they should not get it in the middle of the market. He thought the point might be referred to the designer of the plan as to whether sufficient light would enter the Market in the middle of the day.

Mr. McKIE asked why there should not be a good light in the Market all the day.

The PRESIDENT said that in this matter he was rather in the hands of the Board. He was responsible to a great extent for these designs. The question of light was very carefully considered. This would be a much lighter place than the Central Market. The passages would scarcely be anything else but windows. He fancied there would be abundance of light. He was quite willing that the architect should attend the Board meeting and explain the plans more fully.

It was the opinion of the Board that Mr. Ladds should report to them on the matter, and it was agreed that this should be done.

THE INSPECTION OF STEAMERS FROM HONGKONG.

The following telegram (dated Dec. 3rd) from the Consul-General at Shanghai relative to the inspection of steamers from Hongkong was submitted:—

"Fear Taotai on advice of Customs Commissioner likely to continue to refuse pratique to steamers from Hongkong. It is purely vexatious officiousness. If Governor considers it necessary I shall remonstrate with Viceroy. Please inform me how Saigon, Philippines, and Japan act."

A subsequent telegram (dated Dec. 11th) from the Consul-General said:—

"Chinese authorities on recommendation of Consular body have suspended medical inspection of steamers from Hongkong."

The reply from the Japanese Consul was as follows:—

"I have not so far received any communication from the Japanese Government with regard to quarantine at the ports of Japan upon vessels coming from this colony, and therefore believe that there is no such restrictions. But it is advisable for vessels destined for Japan from this port to take out the bill of health, as the medical inspection is made upon vessels entering the Japanese ports."

Mr. W. F. Aldrich, U. S. Vice-Consul, wrote:—

"The regular inspection service required by the U.S. Quarantine Regulations is observed at all American ports at all times, and no vessel will be detained unless sickness of a contagious nature appears on board. Chinese lily bulbs and salted eggs are not allowed entry. Steerage passengers to all ports are required to have their baggage disinfected at port of departure."

THE PROPOSED SITE FOR THE NEW TUNG WAH INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL.

The block plan of site of the proposed new Tung Wah Infectious Diseases Hospital was submitted.

Dr. Hartigan minuted:—"Would it not be well for the President as a matter of routine to lay all the plans alluded to, as they are completed, before the Board. Such has evidently always been the intention of the Government. I cannot see why the President should think it necessary to ask him for such plans through the Colonial Secretary."

The PRESIDENT said that the Tung Wah Hospital was a private institution. The members of the Hospital were finding the money, and he had no more right to put their plans before the Board to be criticised than he had to put the plans of the handsome Hospital which was being erected near the Peak Hotel. He

thought he would be creating a dangerous precedent if he put the plans of a private individual before the Board for public criticism.

Dr. HARTIGAN said—It will be in your recollection that the Sanitary Surveyor when looking for a site for a pig and cattle cemetery wrote as follows regarding this locality: "Only about 2,000 feet can be used as the ground is marshy. . . . The stench all over the ground was abominable and led me to suppose that most of the other carcasses were buried at about the same depth" (i.e., one foot six inches!) The Committee appointed by the Board to choose a site for the inspector's quarters will have a lively recollection of the place herein described. Now, sir, this abomination, for I can use no milder term, is almost directly above the proposed Hospital, whilst immediately below is a malarious swamp in which the anopheles is, at the present moment, flourishing and increasing. This swamp, I have little doubt, speaking now from personal experience, was the principal cause of the fever which throughout the whole year, attacked each and everyone employed in the old glass-works, situated in the immediate vicinity, and drove away, thereby causing considerable inconvenience, the Manager of the Rope Works, whose family were saturated with paludism and whose former residence, situated a few yards to the eastward, has now happily been demolished. Such surroundings are hardly the most salubrious for a hospital or most conducive to the recovery of patients exposed to the sickly emanations therefrom. I may casually mention that two physicians who were recently visiting the Government Hospital at Kennedytown searched the whole of the Chinese premises, endeavouring to locate the fearful stench which disturbed them in their work (upset them would perhaps be more correct) and only gave up when the darkening twilight warned them to desist. Then one of the attendants who had been puzzled by their actions quietly informed them "that the odour proceeded from the neighbouring hill-side, and that it was always thus when the wind was from the east." I think the medical department deserve the greatest credit for fighting the plague under such adverse circumstances. Objections to improvements may be raised on the score of expense. Personally I should prefer that increased expenditure for sanitary measures should be incurred in districts more accessible and populous than Kennedytown, but such objection should have been remembered and considered when the site was chosen and granted. I do not say on whose shoulders the outlay should fall. Perhaps the Government, with long-sighted wisdom, have a deep scheme for laying out a healthy area at the Tung Wah authorities expense, and will insist upon it before allowing the hospital to be opened or occupied. However that may be, this Board has to deal with hard facts and not amiable intentions, and I therefore beg to move: "That this Board strongly recommends that measures be taken with the least possible delay to remedy the dangerous nuisance existing on the hill-side at Kennedytown above and in proximity to the new infectious hospital; and also that the malarious swamp situated beside the old glass works and below the said Hospital be drained or otherwise made healthy."

Mr. McKIE had much pleasure in seconding. Dr. Hartigan had referred to the fact that members of the Board could speak from experience. He was one of the committee who went down to look at and if possible to find a site for new quarters for the Inspector at the Cattle Depot, and his experience was a most unpleasant one. The stench was so abominable that he had to retire.

Dr. BELL observed that he had been connected with Kennedytown ever since he had joined the service. He had not only been down there many times a day but he had slept there, and he had never been ill nor had he noticed any smell. He did not care about anopheles or anything else, but the very healthiest place in this colony was Kennedytown Hospital, which was in immediate proximity to the proposed new infectious Hospital.

Dr. CLARK said there was a difference between the site of the Kennedytown Hospital and that of the proposed new Infectious Hospital. The Kennedytown Hospital was on the top of a hill some 60 or 70 feet high, and was also about

250 feet further from the swamp than the site of the new Hospital.

Dr. HARTIGAN having said a few words in reply the motion was put to the meeting and carried.

THE ALLEGED LANDING OF UNEXAMINED CATTLE.

The following reply (dated Dec. 10th) from Mr. C. V. Ladds (Colonial Veterinary Surgeon) relative to the landing of unexamined cattle was submitted:—

"I have the honour to report as follows in answer to your letter dated 7.12.00. All cattle which are imported into Hongkong for slaughtering purposes are, in the absence of proper inspection lairs, driven immediately upon being landed direct to the Government Cattle Depots at Kennedytown, where they are daily inspected by me, and any animals which are found to be suffering from disease are at once placed in isolation.

"As regards the importation of dairy cattle, it not being advisable to mix them at the Cattle Depots with animals coming from the mainland, it has been the custom for the owners of such animals to notify me of their arrival in the colony, and they have then been inspected upon the ship before landing—unless they were landed without inspection by my special permission.

"After being landed they are housed by their respective owners in sheds apart from any other cattle which may already be upon such premises, and are seen by me before they are allowed to mix with the remainder of the herd. This rule has been invariably carried out since I arrived in the colony in 1887 with the exception of a few instances where a European dairy-farm owner and one or two native cattle-owners (in the latter case probably through ignorance of the regulations) have, contrary to my instructions, landed animals without reporting their arrival. I am not aware of any instance in which diseased cattle have been landed and walked through the town, and thereby infected healthy cattle, as mentioned by Dr. Hartigan at the Board's meeting on December 6th, and should such a case have occurred it is very improbable that it would have escaped my notice, especially so when enquiring into the source of the alleged outbreak. Apart from any regulations, it is only a matter of commonsense to suppose that no dairy cattle owner would knowingly bring into the colony infected animals, when by doing so he would render himself liable to infect the remainder of the herd. It is far more in the interests of those dairy-farm owners to protect themselves as much as possible from any risk of conveying infection than to expect the Board to safeguard them.

"I do not think for one minute that many cattle are landed in the colony without my knowledge, and even if they were the police would not allow them to run wild all over the city, but would send them off at once to the Cattle Depots (if intended for slaughtering), where I should see them in due course."

The PRESIDENT remarked that it did not do to believe all one heard in Hongkong. This was another case of a mare's nest. Mr. Ladds said the thing complained of was impossible, and in fact he made out that such a thing could not possibly take place.

THE RECENT OUTBREAK OF FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE AT POKFULAM.

The following reply, (dated Dec. 14th) from the Secretary of the Dairy Farm Company, Limited, (Mr. W. Hutton Potts) regarding the recent outbreak of foot and mouth disease at Pokfulam, was submitted:—

"I referred your letter of 7th. inst to our manager, who replies that at present we are obtaining straw from Tain Wan—the bran and grain comes from Shanghai—but that at the time of the outbreak of foot and mouth disease none had been received. He was still feeding grass and hay grown and put up on this island. He had no idea as to the origin of the outbreak."

The following minutes were appended:—

Dr. Hartigan:—"What about bedding?—none from the mainland?"

Dr. Clark:—"This disposes of the theory of infection from the mainland."

Dr. Bell:—"When was the last outbreak of this disease at the Dairy Farm?"

The following letter (dated 11th December) from Mr. Ladds was submitted:—

"Referring to my letter to the Board dated 21st, reporting the outbreak of foot and mouth disease in shed No. 6 at the Sassoon's Villa premises at Pokfulam, the property of the Dairy Farm Company, I have the honour to inform you that these premises may now be declared free from disease."

The President minuted:—"The watchman or watchmen should be discontinued at once."

Dr. BELL said this epidemic of foot and mouth disease occurred and they did not seem to get any "forrarder" He did not know much about foot and mouth disease, but he knew that it was an infectious disease, and as an infectious disease it must come from somewhere. It did not fall down from heaven. He begged to propose that Mr Ladds be called upon to give them a full and minute report of the outbreak and its probable cause.

Major BROWN seconded, and the motion was carried.

THE LIMEWASHING RETURN.

The fortnightly limewashing return of Mr. J. H. Dandy (Chief Inspector) said that 1,083 houses had been limewashed in the Western District since the previous report.

THE HEALTH OF THE COLONY.

The death-rate for the colony for the week ended December 1st, was 23.2, against 40.2 for the previous week and 23.4 for the corresponding week last year. The rate for the succeeding week was 18.4, against 22.0 for the corresponding week last year.

DEATHS IN MACAO.

The deaths in Macao for the week ended December 2nd numbered 38 and for the succeeding week 56.

THE WORK OF THE YEAR.

The PRESIDENT observed—This being our last meeting for the year I wish to say one or two words before we part. I think we may congratulate ourselves on much good work done in Hongkong during the year 1900. Ordinance 34 of 1899 came into operation this year, throwing a vast amount of extra work on the Sanitary Staff and not a little on the P.W.D. Under it great improvements have been effected in letting in light into the dark and unwholesome places of the city, in draining, concreting, and lighting private streets and lanes, and in other useful work. In Hongkong it is the fashion to look rather to what still remains to be done than to good work accomplished. The public and the press are insatiable, always asking for more, pointing out omissions but saying nothing of good work done. Well, this is perhaps as it should be and spurs us on to fresh efforts. I would like again, as I have done more than once before, to call attention to the fact that we live in what is probably one of the healthiest of large cities in the world. Our death-rate for 1899 was 24.4 per thousand in the Chinese community and over 12.4 per thousand among the white races, comparing favourably with the large towns of the Empire. I noticed lately that the death-rate in Singapore was 51 per thousand. I have now, gentlemen, only to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. (Applause.)

The proceedings then terminated.

A very enjoyable evening was spent by the large audience of sailors and soldiers who gathered at the Kowloon Institute on the 18th inst. for the usual weekly concert. The programme was arranged by Mr. J. P. Fonseca, assisted by the orchestra Lusitano, and other friends, and was bright and tasteful throughout. The orchestra opened with a spirited march, and at a later stage gave a selection from "La Sonambula," earning thereby hearty rounds of applause. Mr. Arthur Osmund sang with great taste and feeling "The ship I love" and "The heart bowed down." Special mention must also be made of the violin solo by Mr. Xavier and a violin duet by Messrs. Xavier and Rosario, which were much appreciated. A novel feature of the programme was a solo by a member of Sir Robert Hart's Chinese band, who was on active service under the Union Jack during the siege of the British Legation in Peking. Mr. Fisher also gave great pleasure by his rendering of "Killaloe" and other songs. The proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the performers and the National Anthem.

THE CRISIS IN CHINA.

LOCAL MOVEMENTS.

H.M.S. *Dido* arrived from Weihaiwei on the 14th inst.

The British transport *Rewa* returned from the north.

H. M. S. *Terrible* returned to Hongkong on the 17th inst., having left Yokohama on the 10th inst.

H. M. S. *Isis* left on the 16th inst. for Swatow.

H. M. SS. *Pi-my* and *Algerine* left on the 17th inst. for Singapore.

H. M. SS. *Undaunted* and *Astrax* went out on the 17th inst. practice.

The British transport *Rewa* left on the 16th inst. for Bombay.

The British transport *Loodiana* arrived on the 17th inst. from Shanghai.

H.M.S. *Astrax* returned to the harbour from practice on Tuesday night.

The *Loodiana* left on the 19th inst. for Calcutta.

The U. S. transport *Sumner* arrived on the 20th from Manila.

TIENTSIN AND NORTHERN NOTES.

The following items are from the P. & T. Times of the 1st inst:—

The Peking Prize Committee will shortly be bringing down large quantities of silk for sale in Tientsin.

The Russians are stated to have had a brush with Boxers outside Chunliangcheng station a few days ago.

We hear that Mr. Drow will be succeeded as Commissioner of Customs by Mr. Detring. Mr. Drow leaves for home almost immediately.

The Boxers are still making disturbances around Hokenfu, but Chinese troops under commander Lue have been actively suppressing them.

A few days ago a number of rifles were found stowed away under a stock of firewood in the yard of a man living in Chinchiao, a few miles outside Tientsin City.

A large number of rifles and bayonets have been discovered in the village of Machiachwang, a western suburb of Tientsin, and search has been made there for turbulent characters.

The *Chih Pao* notes with satisfaction that complaints against the foreign soldiers molesting Chinese are growing less frequent, and remarks that the British troops have undoubtedly the cleanest record among the forces here.

Li Hung-chang is reported to have recently urged the Court very earnestly to return to Peking, and to have received such a reply that he was driven to tell the Foreign Ministers that the Imperial answer had been "lost on the road."

The Allied Forces have opened the Imperial granaries in Peking and are supplying the people with grain at cheap rates. The *Chih Pao* suggest that should the Court return they would find Peking as badly provisioned as Hsianfu.

The *Chih Pao* states that it has heard that the foreign Commanders in Shanghai endeavoured to arrange with the Viceroy for the passage of troops to Shensi via the Yangtze, promising not to disturb the Yangtze districts; but the Viceroy objected strongly to any such move.

Some foreign troops, nationality unstated, are reported by the *Chih Pao* to be seizing gangs of Chinese as coolies, and tying them together by their queues. The other day among the men so seized were three foreigners' servants, who tried to resist, and were thrown by the soldiers into the river. What their fate was is not stated.

A very important movement is going forward all over China, and more particularly along the Yangtze basin, in response to special orders from the Viceroy and Governors. Bodies of "volunteers" are being actively enrolled and drilled in the use of fire-arms, nominally for their own protection, but in reality they form a large and formidable reserve force. Every guild and trade, in addition to all well-to-do gentry, have these "volunteer" bodies, who are paid and armed by the Government. They are not a public institution like regular troops, but are dispersed about in towns and villages without any distin-

guishing feature, and in the event of further hostilities will spring up from all quarters precisely *à la Boer*.

The Provisional Government have issued a notification to the effect that it is well known that quantities of arms, rifles, and revolvers are being secreted in the City. They give five days' grace for these to be voluntarily given up, after which time the property of any one secreting arms will be confiscated, and the guilty parties put to death. This is a very wise proceeding, and if effectively acted upon should prove a valuable measure.

A regular, or perhaps we should say, irregular, charge is made of all passengers to Taku by rail now. The Russians are issuing tickets and making everyone pay, but the fares vary according to the weather apparently. Sometimes \$2 is charged one way, \$1.60 on the return journey; sometimes one kind of ticket being given, at others another. We do not know by what international agreement the charge is made at all or who benefits by it.

The report of the Tientsin Waterworks Co., Ltd., for the year ended the 30th of April last, shows a balance at credit of profit and loss of Tls. 132, after writing off Tls. 1,101 for depreciation, etc.

THE NAVY LEAGUE.

GENERAL MEETING OF THE HONGKONG BRANCH.

The general meeting of the members and associates of the Hongkong branch of the Navy League was held in the Chamber of Commerce Room at the City Hall on Tuesday afternoon. The chair was, in the absence of Captain Hastings, occupied by Mr. H. E. Pollock, Q.C., who was supported by Captain Anderson, Messrs. E. W. Mitchell, A. M. Marshall, and R. L. Richardson. There were also present, Messrs. J. J. Francis, Q.C., M. W. Slade, L. S. Lewis, A. J. May, J. P. Cottam, G. J. W. King, T. Skinner, Capt. Goddard, and Capt. Douglas.

The CHAIRMAN said—I am sorry not to see a larger attendance this afternoon, but I hope the committee may take it as a sign that the public are satisfied with the manner in which the committee have carried on the work of this branch during the past couple of years.

Our President, Captain Hastings, is absent from the colony, and the other members of the Committee have done me the honour of temporarily electing me to fill his place as Acting President, and the task devolves upon me, therefore, of addressing you at this present meeting.

All of you will, I am sure, be pleased to learn that, although we have not had the benefit of his presence and experience out here lately, Captain Hastings has been in consultation more than once, at their request, with the Executive Committee of the Navy League in London, and there can be no doubt that he has given them some very sound common-sense advice.

A short time prior to the last annual general meeting of the Navy League, I resigned my position as secretary and treasurer, in consequence of certain doubts which were entertained by General Black, who was then administering the Government, as to the expediency of my holding that position whilst acting in a Government appointment. I am glad to say, however, that our present Governor took a broader view of the question, and, after Mr. Slade had kindly acted as secretary and treasurer for a few months, I resumed my old position. I may mention that in both the Mauritius and Barbados branches of the Navy League the Governor and the General Officer Commanding are Members of the Committee, the Governor himself being the President.

It is now close upon two years since we held our last annual general meeting, and I am sorry to say that the blame for that lapse of time rests upon my shoulders as honorary secretary.

About this time last year, when an annual general meeting should, in the ordinary course of events, have been held, I was kept extremely busy with Government work, and I hope, therefore, that you will kindly excuse the delay which has taken place.

Although, however, we missed our annual general meeting last year, you will see from

the report, which has been circulated to all of you, that your Committee has not been idle.

If, as I hope will be the case, you approve of what has been done by the Committee, I trust that you will do your best to induce your friend to join this branch of the League. The Navy League is a National League and all British residents here ought to join it as a matter of patriotic duty. There is no entrance fee, and the subscription is only a small one, \$5 a year for members and \$2 a year for associates. Your Committee would like, especially at a critical time like the present, to be able to tell the Home authorities that all British subjects out here are supporters of the League, and you should bear in mind that, in supporting the Navy League, you are supporting our trade, for, without a strong Navy out here, we shall most assuredly not be able to maintain a strong policy nor to preserve our commercial open door in the Far East. Surely a trade of over forty millions sterling per annum with indefinite possibilities of expansion, is worth looking after.

The first event of any importance, which took place during the two years under review, in fact only a few days after our last annual general meeting, was the dinner which was given by this branch of the League to Lord Charles Beresford, on the 3rd January, 1899. That dinner was very well attended, and was, I think one may say, a great success and will dwell as a pleasant memory in the minds of those who were present.

We were glad to note that Lord Charles Beresford was appointed a few months ago to the post of second in command in the Mediterranean Squadron, and he is doubtless keeping a watchful eye over every detail which may tend to the efficiency of the Service for which he has done so much.

One of the principal subjects which has occupied and still continues to occupy the serious attention of your Committee is the relative strength of the British Fleet in these waters, as compared with the Fleets of other Powers.

By our letter of the 30th March in this year we ventured to express our dissatisfaction upon the subject to the Head Office, but since then, it must be candidly and sorrowfully confessed that our relative strength has still further diminished and we have recently pointed out strongly the unsatisfactory nature of the present position.

At the dinner which we gave to him here, Lord Charles Beresford observed, "The first essential is to have command of the sea." Can we truthfully say that we have got that "essential" out in the Far East at the present moment? Obviously, I think, we cannot.

The Navy League is not a jingo body and its watchword is "Defence" not "Defiance," but we certainly do think, and we have so informed our Head Office, that in view of our preponderating mercantile interests in China, it is most regrettable that we are not able to assume a more imposing naval position in the Far East at the present time. If a sufficient number of battleships cannot be spared from Home waters to enable us to assume a more commanding naval position in the Far East, then it is abundantly clear that a new Naval Defence Act should be passed at once in order that the deficiency may be promptly remedied and also that steps should be taken to ensure the more speedy construction of our warships. In the October number of the *National Review*, Mr. McHardy pointed out that whereas our proportion of modern battleships built and building in 1889 was 53 against 37 battleships belonging to France and Russia combined, our proportion of modern battleships built and building in 1900 is only 51 as against the 50 battleships of the other two allied Powers. In protected cruisers too, as he points out, our ratio to that of the two Powers in question has fallen from a ratio of 5 to 1 to a ratio of 23 to 10. The Navy League has recently been described, in a leading article in the *Times*, as "hysterical," but surely the present position of our comparative naval strength ought to give rise to reflections of the most serious character in the minds of all those who are concerned for the honour and prestige of their country. In view of the fact that the consequence of defeat at sea would be disastrous to the Empire, it is difficult to speak calmly in face of so serious a decline in our comparative naval strength.

You will see, from our report, that your Committee have also considered it their duty, in the absence of any Army League here, to call attention to certain defects in the Land Defences of this colony, and the arming of our forts and forces. Some steps have been taken and others are in progress, with a view to meet some of the deficiencies which we have pointed out, but much yet remains to be done.

It is obvious that, in time of war, the duty of our Fleet would be to seek out the enemy's Fleet and engage it, and it would very seriously hamper the freedom of action of our Fleet, if it were felt that one or two fast hostile cruisers might possibly snatch possession of or very materially damage this important base for supplies and repairs.

The object, in short, which your Committee have set before themselves is that not merely should our Fleet out here be kept up to a proper standard of strength as compared with the Fleets of other Powers, but also that this Colony should be put in such an adequate state of defence as to be able to hold out by itself against the attacks of a few fast hostile cruisers.

You may be glad to learn that the work which has been done by your Committee out here has met with the approval of the Committee of the Navy League in London. In a Circular Letter from our Head Office, which reached me only a few days ago, the following paragraph occurs in connection with the work which has been done by the Hongkong Branch of the Navy League:—

"Hongkong. Founded in October, 1895. This Branch has from its inception been one of the best managed and hardest working Branches of the League. Its financial condition is good, and its support of the Head Office has been both consistent and liberal. The information it has furnished to London has been of the greatest value, and it may well consider that it has been of assistance to the Imperial authorities by drawing attention to undesirable points connected with the defence of the colony."

Again let me say that we have no desire to be alarmists, but your Committee are anxious that the people at home—the people in whose hands the real power ultimately rests—the power of the vote and purse—should be able, through the agency of the Press, to discern matters clearly as they are,—instead of being permitted to indulge in a dreamy optimism.

One can imagine nothing more dangerous to a nation than a state of false security, or fancied superiority over others.

The question is sometimes asked: "What is the use of this branch of the Navy League? What good does it do?"

Let it be our proud privilege to be able to answer that it is an organisation for teaching the electors of Great Britain the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, about our comparative naval strength out here, and about the needs of this colony in the matter of defence.

If no one has any question to ask with reference to the report and accounts (which have already been published) I beg to move that they be adopted.

Captain ANDERSON said—Mr. President and Gentlemen, in rising to second the adoption of the report I am quite sure that I voice the views of all the other members of the committee in acknowledging the very great assistance and benefit which we have derived from our worthy treasurer and secretary, Mr. H. E. Pollock. I think we have been exceptionally fortunate in having had him to guide us for the last two years. He has consistently maintained the weather-gauge. There seems to be a considerable amount of uncertainty in the public mind at present in regard to the state of the Navy, and it seems to me that people want re-assuring. I think it will be found that the steps taken by our worthy chairman will tend very much to that end. I have pleasure in seconding the report. (Applause).

The CHAIRMAN—I am very much obliged to Captain Anderson for the kind words he has used concerning me. Will those in favour of the reports, and accounts passing kindly hold up their hands?

The motion was carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN—I think the only other business is the election of a committee. Perhaps some gentleman will kindly propose the election of a committee.

Mr. LEWIS—I beg to propose that the following gentlemen be the committee:—Captain Hastings (President), Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C. (Vice-President), Mr. H. E. Pollock, Q.C. (Hon. Secretary and Treasurer), Captain G. C. Anderson, Messrs. R. Cooke, A. M. Marshall, E. W. Mitchell, R. L. Richardson, M. W. Slade, and Captain A. Tillett.

Mr. A. J. MAY seconded and the motion was carried.

Mr. FRANCIS said—Gentlemen; I ask your leave, not that of the Chairman, to propose for your consideration a very hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Pollock for his services not only during the past two years but since the Association was instituted. If we have deserved well of the executive at home, if we have deserved the praise given in the circular which has been read, it has been entirely owing to Mr. Pollock's zeal, intelligence, and hard work in the interests of the League—(applause)—and I beg to propose a hearty vote of thanks to him.

Mr. M. W. SLADE said—I have the very greatest pleasure in seconding that. Gentlemen not having had the experience would be surprised at the amount of hard work which is required of the secretary. I had the misfortune to take up the post for some three or four months, and the number of details and odds and ends which required to be looked after made a serious call upon a man's time. I really do not know how Mr. Pollock finds time to do it all in the way he does. (Hear, hear).

The motion was carried with acclamation.

The CHAIRMAN said—I am very much obliged to you for the kind way in which you have received the remarks of Mr. Francis and Mr. Slade, and also to them for the kind way in which they have spoken about my services to the Navy League. I cannot tell you you will have any dividend warrants—(laughter)—in a few days, but I am glad to be able to tell you that Captain Anderson has been good enough at my request to prepare a lecture on an important subject connected with naval matters, and I hope he will kindly deliver it in due course some time when there are less engagements going on in the colony than there are at present. Just now there are so many things going on in the colony that it is difficult to get people together, especially in the afternoon.

The meeting then separated.

TACTICAL EXERCISES IN THE NEW TERRITORY.

On Saturday, the 15th inst., the Hongkong Volunteer Corps were engaged in tactical exercises in the New Territory with the regular troops of the Garrison. The enemy was supposed to have disembarked at Mirs Bay, to have massed troops at Shatin, and to be marching along the new road with the object of seizing the Cosmopolitan Docks. The attacking force, which was in command of Colonel Brown C.R.E., was composed of the 5th Hyderabad, the 22nd Bombay Light Infantry, and the Asiatic Artillery. Lieut.-Col. the Hon. R. H. Bertie, R.W.F., had charge of the defenders—the R.W.F., 3rd Madras Infantry, and the Volunteers. Lieut.-Col. Perrot, of the 22nd Bombays, was the Chief Umpire. The Volunteers landed at the Kerosine Tanks, instead of much further west, and they had consequently some stiff climbing to do, whilst their location prevented them from turning the flank of the enemy, which it was intended they should endeavour to do. On the Volunteers reaching the new road the signal to cease was given. Here H.E. the Governor, Major-General Gascoigne, Captain the Hon. H. W. Trefusis, Colonel the O'Gorman and others were assembled. Home was reached at about seven o'clock. Before dismissing the Volunteers the Commandant (Lieut.-Col. Sir John Carrington, C.M.G.) addressed a few words to the men. He said that they had had some hard work to do—much harder than it ought to have been. Through some mistake they had not landed at the right place—they should have landed further west. He would not say whose fault this was, but it was not theirs. On the whole he thought they had done very well.

M. Loubet has conferred the Legion of Honour on M. Paul Brunat, Chairman of the French Municipal Council, Shanghai.

MURDEROUS ASSAULT AT SHATIN.

Another in the long series of outrages with violence that have of late made the Shatin district notorious was perpetrated on Thursday afternoon, 13th inst. when Weung Sam, a foreman in the employ of Tung Tak, carrying on business as a contractor in the colony, was set upon by three robbers and left for dead on the road-side. It appears that Weung Sam, having on his person the sum of \$100 in twenty cent pieces, with which to pay the wages of his master's employees, numbering about two hundred, at Shatin, where building operations are at present going on, got into Tung Tak's private ricksha on Thursday afternoon about four o'clock and, accompanied by two coolies—one in the shafts and the other running behind—set out for Shatin taking the new road that skirts the hill round to that district. When the sixth milestone had been passed, two men were seen coming along the road towards the ricksha. When nearly opposite the vehicle, another man stepped out from some cover where he had been concealed, and the three summoned the ricksha to stop. All were armed—one with a chopper and the other two with bamboos—and without warning they set upon the foreman and the two coolies. The latter, badly bruised and cut, succeeded in effecting their escape, leaving their master to the mercy of his assailants. They proceeded to the police station at Shatin and reported the outrage. Sergeant Lander, in charge there, got some coolies to accompany him, and set out for the scene of the assault. A search revealed the unfortunate foreman, with numerous wounds on the head and body, lying unconscious about twenty feet below the road down the hillside. He was picked up and placed carefully in the ricksha, which the robbers, shrewdly guessing that the possession of such a cumbersome article would afford a sure clue to their identification, had left behind, undamaged. The injured man was taken to the Civil Hospital here, where he now lies. His injuries are so serious that he is not expected to recover. The two coolies, who say they cannot identify their assailants, have been detained by the police, pending enquiries. There is reason to believe that the robbers do not come from Hongkong.

It has long been the practice of this contracting firm to send the wages of employees in outlying districts by one or other of the foremen, a ricksha on such occasions always being used. It is this latter fact that is supposed—and apparently reasonably so—to have given the robbers an inkling that money was being transmitted, whereupon they lay in wait, with the result already stated. In the present case the foreman was at first going with a message only to Shatin, and intended to walk. No one knew he was to be entrusted with the money, as it was handed to him just at the last moment. He thereupon altered his original intention of walking and got into the ricksha, taking the two coolies with him as a means of protection against possible danger. How inadequately they discharged that function has already been told.

The return of deaths in the Colony during November shows a total of 629, 35 in the European and Foreign community (Civil population 19, Army 13, Navy 3), and 594 in the Chinese community. Chest affections claimed 132 victims, and Fevers 102, of which 87 were due to Malaria—four of these latter cases being in the Army and two in the European and Foreign civil community. The following averages appear in the statement showing the death-rate in the different districts:—British and Foreign Civil community, 25 per 1000 per annum; Chinese community, Victoria, Land 26.2, Harbour 40.5; Chinese community, whole Colony, Land 26.4, Boat 42.8, Land and Boat 28.7; British Foreign, and Chinese community, excluding Army and Navy, 28.6. It will be noted that in consequence of the typhoon the Harbour death-rate has risen very greatly. A total of 69 deaths (of which 60 are attributed to "other causes" than the usual categories of disease) is returned on an estimated population of 24,550.

OCCASIONAL NOTES.

From various sources, Mr. Editor, we hear a lot of satisfaction expressed at the Anglo-Portuguese "Alliance," "Treaty," or "Agreement," as it is variously called. Some, however, look only for a renewal of former pledges of amity after the straining of the situation down at Delagoa Bay; others talk of an offensive and defensive alliance. The latter suggestion is a little excessive. It is not likely that the home Government is at the present moment going to break away from the policy of "glorious isolation"—the expression has grown tedious, but it is conveniently short, so I make no further apology for employing it—and we may dismiss this alternative. But it is probable that there is more in the demonstration of the British fleet at Lisbon on the 5th inst. than the mere wish to show that a friendship of long-standing between the two countries is still unruffled. There undoubtedly has been considerable friction about the action or rather inaction of the Portuguese authorities at Delagoa Bay, as well as over the Delagoa Railway arbitration, and it is not a very bold guess which assumes that there will be something in any new understanding between Britain and Portugal about the important Portuguese possession in South-East Africa. This is especially probable at a time when we are working hand in hand with Germany, who is next most interested in the Bay after ourselves, and with whom some sort of agreement on the question was arrived at in 1898. But apart from all consideration of affairs in Africa, it is gratifying to know that the mother countries of Hongkong and our neighbour Macao are on such excellent terms.

I imagine that your correspondent of the 12th inst., who wrote of the fire of Sunday evening at Beaconsfield Arcade under the pen-name of "Bluejacket," had many sympathisers. I thought myself as I read the remarks of the fireman of eight years' standing that our sailors and soldiers, who worked so hard, not merely to the detriment of their Sunday clothes but at the actual risk of serious injury, had been rather ungratefully treated. They at any rate did their best to combat the flames in the absence of our fire-brigade. They are accused of too much zeal, of "interfering" in fact, but this and all the confusion which was so rife at the time were due to the absence of any controlling authority. A fire-brigade can no more run itself properly than can a mob. Some explanation is wanted—I am not alone in saying this, I have heard the remark from innumerable people—of the absence from the spot of anyone competent to direct and guide operations. So far as I know, no such explanation has been vouchsafed. I suppose we shall see one in the report on the Brigade next year.

The subject of sailors and soldiers recalls to memory the recent street disturbances between the representatives of various countries who have come into collision with one another in this port and others in the Far East. Happily the troubles have abated here—chiefly because some of the late combatants have gone to other scenes. So too in Shanghai order seems to have re-established itself. The participants in the rows have, let us hope, returned to their senses. Considering the undoubted ill-feeling and jealousy which have marred this "international parade" in China, it is perhaps rather creditable that nothing beyond a few street disturbances has resulted from the high state of national feeling. Consular, municipal, and military authorities alike have displayed forbearance and tact, and in consequence the wilder spirits have been suppressed. It is satisfactory to know that those in authority have recognised the advantages of mutual concessions and so averted any real quarrel. From all accounts matters have not passed off so smoothly in North China, a fact which may have more bearing than we imagine on the progress of negotiations.

The refuse-destructor was very much in evidence (in the spirit) at last week's meeting of the Sanitary Board. Many of us wish that it were in evidence also in reality. We have had enough diseased cattle and swine buried on this island, and the plan of dropping their carcasses

in the sea did not inspire enough enthusiasm in the past to induce us to welcome it back. Apart, however, from the question of the disposal of these unpleasant bodies, is there not more to be done in the way of getting rid of rubbish in some parts of the city? I suppose we must put up for some years more with the condition of the Harbour frontage from Pedder's Street westward, but I find it hard to suppress an expression of disgust whenever I return from Macao and take a ricksha from the wharf to the centre of Victoria. This will be changed one day, no doubt. It is gratifying to think what a pleasant and imposing place Hongkong may look in the future, when the present generation are all dead. Our successors may see on landing a well-kept sea-front, permanent wharves and piers, with possibly roofs over them; further on there may be adequate public buildings; and even a Post Office worthy of the name - but no! this is too Utopian, and after all it will not matter to us.

OBSERVER.

COUNT VON WALDERSEE AND THE CHINESE REPRESENTATIVES.

Der Ostasiatische Lloyd publishes the report of an interview between Count von Waldersee, Li Hung-chang, and Prince Ching, which took place on the 15th November. We quote the termination. Li Hung-chang has expressed the hope that the peace negotiations will soon begin.

W.—In a few days. Once begun, it will be well if they are finished rapidly. China must make sacrifices. It will be better for the country that the affair should not drag on.

L.—Communication with the Chinese troops is very difficult owing to the absence of telegraphs. (He asks for safe-conducts for his couriers to take the news which at present he cannot send out).

W.—It is not necessary. Your news system is so good that it does not need to be any better.

L.—I think, nevertheless, that it would be well to give passports.

W.—As soon as the Chinese troops have evacuated our sphere of occupation I will help your couriers to reach their destinations.

L.—Passports will be equally useful for all officials sent to take charge of their districts.

W.—This might be done if I knew the contents of the messages.

C.—They certainly will contain no news of the war, only news of administrative affairs.

W.—Being of so harmless a character they might perfectly well be communicated to us before being sent.

L.—Imperial edicts may come from Court. Safe-conducts will be required for them.

W.—I will think it over. I hope to have the pleasure of seeing you more often.

C.—All letters are stopped now.

W.—I do not think so. This has not happened to us.

C.—Still it is so. Communications have been interrupted.

W.—No one has kept back our letters.

L.—The couriers are in a state of terror.

W.—I can give you no pass. I will think the matter over.

C.—If despatches are examined, the bearers in all cases should have permission to pass. If they are examined, will this be done by the Field Marshal or by someone else?

W.—By myself. It is better so.

L.—What must I do if I wish to send a messenger?

W.—I must have time and an opportunity to think about it. I will let you know. There is still a large number of Chinese troops in our sphere of occupation; they must quit it. I can only allow here the administrative officials, who are of use to us.

L.—You will have no reason for friction with the administrative officials.

The interview then ended.

The *Shanghai Mercury* learns that the French gunboats *Surprise* and *Lion*, which are at present at Hankow, are likely, owing to want of water, to be detained there until next March, as the condition of the river will not admit of their returning until the river rises again in the spring.

THE JAPANESE NAVY.

At the commencement of the war between China and Japan, the latter Power possessed a navy of only 30,000 tons, while that of her opponent was 40,000 tons. For defensive purposes Japan has been forced since then to augment her navy until now she possesses a fleet of an aggregate tonnage of 260,000. This enormous expansion has taken place in less than six years and has received the approval of the Diet and the nation at large. The authorities now appear to view with suspicion the action of certain Powers in greatly reinforcing their Far Eastern squadrons, and a Japanese native paper learns that it has been proposed in Japanese naval quarters to augment the navy to the extent of either 350,000 or 400,000 tons. The proposal is receiving the support of the leading Japanese naval authorities and of many influential persons outside naval circles, and it is generally believed that the scheme will be realised in the near future.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Canton, 15th December.

H.E. TAK SOW ON THE TRIAD REBELLION. The vernacular papers of Canton reproduce a long memorial sent by the Acting Viceroy, Tak Sow, to the Emperor and Empress Dowager, dealing at great length with the recent rebellion at Waichow. His Excellency relates how he despatched Generals Ho Cheung Ching, Tang Wai Lin, Mok Sin Chik, Wong Kum Fuk, and the commanders of the several gunboats by land and by sea to attack the rebels. The latter were dressed in white, with red bandages tied round their heads as a mark of distinction. The names of the rebel chiefs, including Choi King Fuk, Ho Chung Pew, Wong Yew Ting and others are given; the kind of flags, with their significations, and the fire-arms they used; the localities where the battles were fought, and the dates. It is stated that on the battlefield among the killed was found one rebel dressed in foreign clothes, who was said to be a military adviser, by name Chiang Se Liang. It is described how a number of villagers had placed themselves between the two fires and were killed, and a large number of rebels caught, tried and decapitated. H.E. attributes this rising of the Triad Society to the machinations of Kang Yu Wei, Sun Yet Sen, alias Sun Man, and Leang Kai Chew, and other seditious associates. Further the report adds that the localities where the rebellion took place are now quiet; and that H.E. has sent the Black Flag General Lin Yung-fu and his soldiers to watch and keep the peace in these districts, as well as hunt down any rebels or pirates that they come across.

SUN YET SEN AND VICEROY CHANG CHIH-TUNG.

It is said that Sun Yet Sen, alias Sunman, reported the head of the Triad Society, has sent a petition to the Viceroy Chang Chih-tung of Hunan and Hupeh, offering to surrender, and be a good and loyal subject; but that the latter replied that if he could bring the heads of Kang Yu-wei and Leang Kai-chew he would listen to his proposal, and pardon his former offences.

TERRIBLE LAUNCH ACCIDENT.

On the 10th inst., at 2 p.m., the steam-launch *Samchow* left Shin Hing for Canton, taking in tow a passenger-boat fully laden with cargo, luggage, and about 500 passengers, male and female; she was of light draught and slimly built. On turning the corner of Ho Kao creek, somewhere near Yung Kee, as she was running with full speed, her rudder got broken. The passengers in the lower dock, startled by the rumbling noise, got frightened and made a rush to the upper deck. The upper part being over-weighted, the launch lurched to one side and threw the passengers into the water; over two hundred of them were drowned, and the rest were saved by other boats that passed by. The committees of the Kwong Chai and Oi Yunk hospitals have had 'matcheds' built near the spot to find the dead bodies and provide them with coffins and burial. Those who had relations or friends have been already taken away and buried by them.

RAISING MONEY FOR MILITARY PURPOSES.

On account of the hard times brought about by the present crisis when money is urgently

needed, the people in the different districts and prefectures are making voluntary contributions for the expenses of the army, so as to relieve the Imperial Government of part of its difficulty. The Magistrate On of the Keyew district has orders to raise a loan from his people, which is not easy to do; so he has resorted to the following resource. At the foot of the bridge along which people passed to see the religious exhibition near by he ordered to be placed a large covered wooden box, into which every person that passed and repassed had to drop a few cash. On the box was pasted a poetical notice, which runs as follows:—The Peking Government is in extreme difficulties, which is hard indeed to tell. The pleasure-seeking people who come to see the Exhibition are counted by thousands and thousands. Let them spend not their money in eating houses and drink-shops, but contribute as much as they please to a good cause. This is the order the Magistrate has received from the Viceroy. The story (of the Imperial distress) is most heartrending, and there is no extortion here, as heaven may bear witness!

MANILA.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Manila, 12th December.

BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT—ADDITIONS TO THE CITY.

Business in Manila has been steadily improving since McKinley's election. There no longer remains the slightest hope in the minds of the Filipinos of self-government. The vast work undertaken by the Civil Commission indicates a bright and prosperous future for these islands. The Educational Department is going ahead with wonderful rapidity; numerous schools are opened in the provinces as well as in the city, which are being well appreciated by those natives who can avail themselves of the privilege of attending. The improvements to the Bridge of Spain are not only an advantage to business, but have also given it a very respectable appearance. The centre of attraction is the Oriente Hotel, where, amongst other amusements, a first-class ball is provided for the benefit of the guests and their friends at least twice a month. These dances are the means of bringing together not only the leading citizens, and the heads of departments of the military and naval authorities, but also the youth and beauty of Manila, and several very pretty matches which have recently taken place may be traced to these events as their origin. The Oriente is owned by an English syndicate, but is entirely under American management, and the improvements made under the present administration of the last four months have brought it to such a high standard as to compare very favourably with any first class hotel in the United States.

THE LUNETTA.

The Luneta is fast becoming a most fashionable drive. Long lines of carriages throng round the Plaza, from the centre of which come the sweet strains of one or other of the regimental bands stationed in the district. This, mingled with the breezes from off the bay, makes it doubly refreshing to the weary business man at the close of an oppressive and trying day's toil.

The Chinese Minister to the United States, H.E. Wu Ting-fang, met with a great reception at Pittsburg, Pa., on the 1st of last month, when he attended the Founder's Day prize-giving at the Carnegie Institute and addressed those present on the subject of education in China. Wu Ting-fang made an excellent and most diplomatic speech, and proceedings were of a most cordial nature. Mr. Andrew Carnegie sent a letter in which he alluded to the "unique and yet appropriate" presence of the Chinese Minister. He added:—"Our people do not appreciate the Chinese as they should, seeing only the class that emigrates. I hope the visit of Mr. Wu Ting-fang will stimulate interest, and that Pittsburgers will read up about China and what it has done. All the Chinese ask is that races far younger than themselves shall let them alone."

FOOCHOW.

The *Foochow Echo* of the 8th inst. gives an account of the athletic sports at that port on the 6th, which was quite a gala day for Foochow. The whole of the community, men, ladies and children, a contingent of some seventy men from H.M.S. *Mohawk*, and several hundreds of Chinese, were all down on the recreation ground enjoying the sports in the finest of fine weather. The committee consisted of Messrs. Ramsay, Simpson, Brockett, Rogers, G. Greig, R. Greig, Balloch, Lachlan and Shearer. Mr. W. A. R. Knight acted as starter and Messrs. Baker and Galton as judges. Mr. Wallace, the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer of the Foochow Cricket and Lawn Tennis Club, was of course present and kept very busy throughout the afternoon. Twelve items were on the programme of a most varied nature, the last of which, a tug-of-war between H. M. S. *Mohawk* and Foochow, was won, after breaking one rope and having a good tussle with a second one, by the naval team. The afternoon was a great success. It is impossible to say whether it was enjoyed most by the Foochow community, or by their visitors from the *Mohawk*. The prizes were presented by Mrs. O'Brien Butler.—Our Foochow contemporary has also the following item:—The installation of the W.M. of the Foochow Lodge took place on the 5th inst. The following are the officers for the ensuing year:—W.M., E. Wookey; I. P. M., G. Balloch; S. W., C. Gray; J. W., T. Knudsen; Chaplain, S. L. Gracey; P. M., Treasurer, C. Skerrett-Rogers; P. M., Secretary, W. A. R. Knight; S.D., H. Knight; J.D., C. Rosemann; I. G., G. Andersen; Tyl., D. Silver.

CHUNGKING.

The *N.-C. Daily News* Chungking correspondent, writing on the 10th inst., says:—“We received the news the other day that the British Government had bought the *Pioneer*. This has given us a considerable amount of satisfaction for we now know we have a gunboat (when she is so adapted) suitable for this river that will be able to give us adequate protection, but many of us regret that her commercial capabilities were not fully tested. The question about which there is much conjecture is, will the Government keep her up here with her present crew on board until she is relieved by the *Woodcock* or *Woodlark*, or will she go down to Shanghai to be refitted and return. The former plan seems the most sensible under the present circumstances. It may seem a farce to some to keep a gunboat in Chungking for the protection of sixteen Europeans, but it is necessary to look farther ahead than that. When we read of the “vast French interests in Szechuan,” as quoted by the *Times* from a well known French paper referring to the “Evacuation of Chungking,” we shall do well to keep the British flag well in evidence in the West of China, and it will never be ignored when flying from one of H.M.’s gunboats.”

The correspondent continues:—“We hear that some missionaries intend returning in the German steamer. It is to be sincerely hoped that they will not bring any ladies or children with them. Chungking at present is perfectly safe, but it certainly would not be if the *Empress* came to Chêngtu, or even if the deplorable state of business continues much longer, sowing seeds of the discontent which quickly ripens into riot. Daily our friends ask us if peace has been concluded. We have to confess ignorance. It seems useless starting missionary work again with the chance of having it all upset as before, or until the safety of both missionaries and converts is assured.”

News is current, says the Korean correspondent of the *Kobe Herald*, that a proclamation has been issued in Seoul by Hi Yung Hick and his party calling upon the Korean Boxers to expel all foreigners, including the Japanese. The above-named gentleman is he (the correspondent adds) who caused all the recent trouble in connection with the gold mining affair. There is no doubt whatever that he is mixed up with the growing anti-foreign movement and is lending help to the Korean Boxers.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE “DAILY PRESS.”
Hongkong, 17th December.

SIR,—A. S. Watson & Co. was formed, on the 16th June, 1885, by a Deed of Settlement containing certain Regulations with power to alter all or any of them.

The Company was registered, under the Companies Ordinance 1865, with limited liability on the 19th January, 1886, and such registration deprived it of the power of altering some of the Regulations without the sanction of the Court.

The Deed of Settlement is still subsisting, with certain slight alterations, but it is now proposed to adopt new Regulations to the exclusion of all existing Regulations.

Two questions arise—one of form, the other of substance. The first is: Are the General Managers adopting the right course? The second is: Will the new Regulations be for the benefit of the Company?

As to the first question, I pointed out to the General Managers, before the meeting of the 4th instant, that the proper and safe course was to alter the form of the Company’s constitution by substituting a memorandum and Articles of Association for the Deed of Settlement under the Companies (Memorandum of Association) Ordinance, 1890.

This was the course adopted by the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company last year under very eminent advice, and I have no doubt that it is the proper course to adopt in the present case.

There are many reasons why a Memorandum and Articles are more convenient than a Deed of Settlement.

As to the second question, I venture to think that the Chairman at the meeting of the 4th instant did not sufficiently explain the objects of the new Regulations and did not show that they were for the benefit of the Company.

The advertisement of the meeting did not afford any information in this respect and did not even state (as is usual in such cases) that a copy of the proposed new Regulations might be seen by shareholders at the Company’s office. I do not suppose that one tenth of the shareholders know what the new Regulations are.

I have, however, myself had an opportunity of perusing them, and so far as I remember, the chief provisions under the four heads mentioned by the Chairman at the meeting of the 4th instant are as follows:—

1.—*The remuneration of the General Manager.*—Under the present Regulations the General Managers are entitled to a salary of \$3,600 per annum. Under the new Regulations, they are to be entitled to a salary of \$7,200 per annum and a commission of 5 per cent. on the net profits in any year in which the net profits amount to 7 per cent. of the capital of the Company.

From the figures in the last Report it appears that if the General Managers had been paid for the year 1899 on the new instead of on the old basis they would have received under this heading \$13,064 instead of \$3,600.

If Directors are paid a commission on profits it is usual to provide that their total remuneration in respect of any one year shall not exceed a certain amount without the sanction of a General Meeting, but there is no such provision in the new Regulations.

2.—*The increase in the number of qualification shares necessary to be held by the General Managers.*—The General Managers are to hold shares of the Company of the nominal value, of \$10,000—at the least—instead of \$1,000.

3.—*The change in the working of the London Agency.*—John D. Humphreys & Son are to be the London agents, and they are to receive a commission of 2½ per cent. on all goods ordered by or for the Company from any person, firm or company carrying on business in Great Britain, the Continent of Europe, Canada, or the United States of America.

What will this commission probably amount to?

4.—*The appointment of a consulting Committee.*—There is to be a Consulting Committee of five members, including the Chairman, who

is to be a member of the firm of John D. Humphreys & Son. The other four members are to be appointed by the General Managers, must hold 100 shares each, and are to be paid a remuneration of \$2,500 in any year in which the net profits amount to 7 per cent. of the capital.

Why did not the Chairman give some information on the above-mentioned points at the recent meeting? It was scarcely a representative meeting. If one may judge from the names given in your report of it, there was scarcely an independent shareholder present; but, if the Chairman had gone a little into detail and explained why it was necessary or desirable to make the proposed alterations, the general body of shareholders might have known something about the matter.

When questions of remuneration are dealt with, I think that shareholders should have the fullest information, and it seems to me that in the present case the general body of shareholders have had practically no information whatever. I do not say that the proposed increase of remuneration should not be sanctioned, but I do say that it should not be sanctioned until the shareholders have had a fair opportunity of considering the matter, and especially of considering, with the facts and figures before them, whether the proposed alterations will on the whole be, as the Chairman said at the recent meeting, “more profitable to the Company’s interests generally.”

I should like to know, for instance, how the proposed alterations will probably affect future dividends. The Company used to pay a steady 14 per cent. It now pays 10 or 11 per cent. How much will it pay if the proposed new regulations are adopted?—I am, etc.,

J. F. REECE.

THE PRICE OF LIVING IN HONGKONG.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE “DAILY PRESS.”
Hongkong, 17th December.

SIR,—On the evil that is daily increasing, consequent upon the high living now prevalent in Hongkong, it is hardly necessary to dilate. Few there are, I believe, who need to be told how pernicious are its effects. And the few who have complained of it, no less than laboured to remove it, have, it may safely be asserted, been at the best entirely unsuccessful; not that the subject is trite, and has failed to engage attention; nor that they were wrong in asserting its existence, for the truth of it is irrefragable since it exists now while it did not a few years since; but that, having gone so far, it is a pity they have not gone one step farther, and, instead of raising a hue and cry, calmly put to themselves these questions—Is it the duty of the Government to father the cause of its people? If so, can the evil be all done away with? If not altogether, how far?

To the former of these questions the answer I give is, that the Government as such must do all that is within its province for their welfare; and this holds good in respect of its application to that of Hongkong. Of the latter and more complex question it does not present, at first sight, such an easy solution; nor can it become so with absolute certainty; nevertheless it is worth while arriving indefinitely near it.

Supposing it (the evil) cannot be completely removed, yet we can fairly expect its almost entire removal if such course as I shall presently lay down be not inconsistent, and can be carried through.

The first and foremost of the causes producing it, therefore, is the raising by leaps and bounds of house-rent. I know houses which, but a few years ago rented at \$40 a month, are now rented at \$110. The contrast, every one will admit, is anything but proportionate. And unfortunately the exorbitant rent cannot be reduced to what it was, as a great number of houses have changed hands, and a high price has been paid for them because of speculation running rife in them; but the obvious remedy is to fix a price on all houses according to their actual value, and a certain percentage, as the Government thinks fit, as rental income; and further, to stipulate that no house should henceforth be sold for more than its intrinsic value; otherwise, although restricted by the fixing of the rent, it will not prove very beneficial.

The other causes are very numerous. With respect, however, to those which have reference to articles of clothing, tinned meats and the like, the Government can do nothing because they are the outcome of exchange; but with those of the colony, such as meat and so on, the Government has concern, and to bring them under the Government ought, although detrimental to its coffers—which is nothing to compare to the welfare of its people—to raise all taxes that are being levied on butchers' stalls, &c.

If this be effected, then in the not far-off and more pliant future we may look forward to a decided change for the better; but, if not, this evil that is telling so much on the not-wealthy class of this community will bear hard with them, and unless its progressiveness be arrested, who can tell in what point it will culminate?—Yours, &c.,

J. M. XAVIER.

THE TRAMWAY COMPANY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
Hongkong, 19th December.

SIR,—May I, through the medium of your paper, point out to the Managers of the Tramway Company that it would be conferring a boon on a large number of Peak residents were they to seriously consider improving the Plantation Road Station. I do not think they realise the number of people who use it, and I think many more—especially ladies—would do so if the nuisance and danger of crossing the rope were eliminated. It is not impossible and the expense would not be great.—Yours, etc.,

PEAKITE.

FUND IN AID OF SUFFERERS FROM THE TYPHOON.

A meeting of the committee of the Typhoon Relief Fund was held in the Council Chamber on Monday morning, His Excellency the Governor presiding. The members of the committee present were Sir Thomas Jackson, the Hon. J. J. Keswick, the Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, C.M.G., Mr. Fung Wa Chuen, Mr. Ho Fook, and Mr. Lo Kun Ting.

The HONORARY TREASURER (Sir Thomas Jackson) stated that subscriptions to the amount of \$14,110.20, plus £50, had been received.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUEN informed the committee that he had collected a further sum of \$7,000, which would make a grand total of \$21,110.20, plus £50. He further stated that he and his confrères had met the day before at the Tung Wah Hospital and had been assisted in their enquiries by many of the leading Chinese residents. They had investigated 145 cases which were in need of relief. It was ascertained that the loss sustained in these cases amounted to \$50,000. Mr. Fung also reported that there were still other cases which would be investigated the following day.

The total loss in cases requiring assistance was estimated at \$75,000.

It was agreed that the Chinese members of the committee should be empowered to distribute the relief in the most necessitous cases in the first instance, and that they should furnish a report of the cases relieved and the moneys distributed for the information of the subscribers to the fund.

It was decided that the subscription list should be closed to-day, Saturday, the 22nd inst., and that those who wished to subscribe and who had not yet done so should be requested to send in their subscriptions to the Honorary Treasurer on or before that date.

Sir THOMAS JACKSON said great thanks were due to Mr. Fung Wa Chuen for the energetic spirit displayed by him in collecting subscriptions from the Chinese community.

Mr. FUNG replied, observing that he had been greatly helped by the other two Chinese members of the committee, and also by other Chinese gentlemen.

The meeting then adjourned.

The Hon. Treasurer begs to acknowledge receipt of the following amounts:—

Previously acknowledged, £50 & \$11,217.20
Tsun Wa Foong Opium Farm 200
Fook Loong Opium Farm ... 100

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------|
| Foong Tun Kee | \$100 |
| Joo Tek Shing | 100 |
| Go Guan Hin | 100 |
| Tung Chan | 100 |
| Yuen Hop | 100 |
| Kwong Wing Shun | 100 |
| Tsui Cheong Loong | 100 |
| Kwong Lun Tai | 100 |
| Kwong Wah Yuen | 100 |
| Wing Cheong Kat | 100 |
| Tee Shun Hong | 100 |
| Tee Wo Loong | 100 |
| Him Yuen | 100 |
| Kwan Yick | 100 |
| Kam Tak Tai | 100 |
| Tsui Tak Loong | 100 |
| Cheung Yu Firm | 100 |
| Poon Man Hing | 100 |
| Wong Wo Kee Firm | 100 |
| Shing On | 60 |
| Sing Tai | 60 |
| Kung Tai | 60 |
| Man Sang | 60 |
| Yuen Shing | 60 |
| Kat Cheung Hing | 60 |
| Sun Kwong Hop | 60 |
| Nam Tai Hing | 60 |
| Kwong On Wing | 50 |
| Tung Kee & Co. | 50 |
| Wing Cheong Shing | 50 |
| Nam Wo & Co. | 50 |
| Sun Tung Cheong | 50 |
| Wing Tung Kut | 50 |
| Kwong Yee Ying | 50 |
| Dorabjee Nowrojee | 50 |
| Shun Shing | 50 |
| Kai Hing & Co. | 50 |
| Kwong Hing | 50 |
| Wong Kam Fook | 50 |
| Kwong Tak Hing | 50 |
| D. Gillies | 50 |
| G. Stewart | 50 |
| Reuter, Brockelmann & Co. | 50 |
| The Hongkong Daily Press | 50 |
| Dr. Noble | 50 |
| Kwan Wo Loong | 50 |
| Shan Cho Tong | 50 |
| Ko Yu | 40 |
| Foo Chan Chai | 40 |
| Wo Hing Tai | 40 |
| Tsun Cheong Wing | 40 |
| Kwan Hing Loong | 40 |
| Shun Hing | 40 |
| Kwong Foong Wo | 40 |
| Kwai Mow Firm | 40 |
| Wo Kee & Co. | 40 |
| Hang Yuen | 40 |
| Yee Yuen Yarn & Opium Farm | 40 |
| Kwong Tung On | 30 |
| Lee Nam | 30 |
| Kwong On Wo | 30 |
| Kwong Shun Tai | 30 |
| Fung Tang Kee | 30 |
| Lee Cheong Loong | 30 |
| Foo Wo Cheong | 30 |
| Kwong Tung Yuen | 30 |
| Tin Yuen Opium Farm | 30 |
| Wing Lee Yuen | 30 |
| Man Fook Shing | 30 |
| Kwong Kam On | 30 |
| Han Foong Hong | 25 |
| Tin Wo | 25 |
| Cheong Sing | 25 |
| Tai Hing Loong | 25 |
| On Hing | 25 |
| Kwan Sing Tam | 25 |
| Madar & Farmer | 25 |
| A. M. Essabhoj | 25 |
| Kwong Yuen Hing | 25 |
| Tak Shing Loong | 25 |
| Ho Tai Sang | 25 |
| China Merchants' Steam Navigation Co. | 25 |
| W. J. Saunders | 25 |
| F. von der Ffordten | 25 |
| Harry Wicking and Co. | 25 |
| Wing Mow | 25 |
| On Wo Loong | 20 |
| Hang Shing | 20 |
| Fook Yuen | 20 |
| Man On Tung | 20 |
| Kwong Wo Tai | 20 |
| Wing Yuen On | 20 |
| Man Yik Tong | 20 |
| E. V. Brennan | 20 |
| Tai Loy | 20 |
| Wing On Cheung | 20 |
| Wing Shun Wo | 20 |

| | |
|-----------------------|------|
| Hing Kee | \$20 |
| Tsun Loong | 20 |
| Po Tai Wo | 20 |
| Kwong Shun Tai | 20 |
| Fung Shu Tong | 20 |
| Cheong Hop | 20 |
| Wing Yee Yuen | 20 |
| Shiu Ying Wo | 20 |
| Kwan Tung Cheong | 20 |
| Hip Mow Chan | 20 |
| E Cheong | 20 |
| Hang Yick | 20 |
| Mow Yuen | 20 |
| Kwong Yee | 20 |
| Kwong Yuen | 20 |
| Wing Loong | 20 |
| Him Wo | 20 |
| Cheong On | 20 |
| Tsui Fat | 20 |
| Yee Ying Cheon | 20 |
| Kung Sing Wo | 20 |
| Kwong Loong Tai | 20 |
| Kung Hing Chung | 20 |
| Kwong Lun Cheong | 20 |
| Him Wo | 20 |
| Hing Kee | 20 |
| Wing Yee Cheong | 15 |
| Shan Cheong | 15 |
| Ming Fat | 15 |
| Kwan Chan | 15 |
| Dr. J. H. Swan | 15 |
| R. S. Mogra | 11 |
| S. R. Futtakia | 11 |
| T. I. Rose | 10 |
| R. Cooke | 10 |
| J. Ullmann & Co. | 10 |
| Kuhn & Komor | 10 |
| Yu Lee | 10 |
| More & Seimund | 10 |
| A. W. Brewin | 10 |
| C. Abdoola & Co. | 10 |
| W. J. Gresson | 10 |
| Jas. McKie | 10 |
| Burjorjee Naorojee | 10 |
| A. Esmaajee | 10 |
| Nan Tsui | 10 |
| Hop Hing Loong | 10 |
| Yee Tak Chan | 10 |
| Kwong Kat Cheung | 10 |
| Ho Ping Kee | 10 |
| Now Shang | 10 |
| Min Fat | 10 |
| Mwong Yee Chan | 10 |
| Kam Fung Mee | 10 |
| Sang Cheong | 10 |
| J. Barton | 5 |
| Wm. A. Cruickshank | 5 |
| B. L. | 5 |
| E. C. Emmett | 5 |
| Chad. T. Kew | 5 |
| Ebrahim Elias and Co. | 5 |
| M. Grote | 5 |
| Mrs. Bateman | 5 |
| E. Tatcher | 5 |
| Geo. A. Caldwell | 5 |
| W. Wilson | 5 |
| R. V. Rutter | 5 |
| A. Harvie | 5 |
| M. Jack | 5 |
| S. Wilson | 5 |
| F. Logan | 5 |
| J. M. Henderson | 5 |
| Thomas Neave | 5 |
| W. F. Ford | 5 |
| A. G. Ewing | 5 |
| Wm. Stewart | 5 |
| Jas. W. Graham | 5 |
| W. N. Deas | 5 |
| G. W. Patton | 5 |
| J. Wilkie | 5 |
| J. S. Ezekiel | 5 |
| B. Byramjee | 5 |
| C. M. Bhesania & Co. | 5 |
| E. C. Lewis | 5 |
| J. Ramsay | 5 |
| C. N. Alexander | 5 |
| H. Smith | 5 |
| Jno. Lambert | 5 |
| T. Warwick | 5 |
| J. Pestonjee Kharass | 5 |
| E. D. Kotewal | 3 |
| W. Davidson | 3 |
| W. Nicholls | 2 |
| S. J. Reid | 2 |
| H. Dixon | 2 |
| J. Moosa | 2 |
| J. R. Craik | 2 |
| O. Gordon | 2 |

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|
| A. C. Squair | ... | ... | \$1 |
| J. C. Watson, H.M.S. <i>Lizard</i> | ... | ... | 1 |
| F. E. Seymour, do. | ... | ... | 1 |
| Dr. Campbell, do. | ... | ... | 1 |
| F. K. T. | ... | ... | 1 |

£50 & \$17,352.20

SEAMEN'S CHURCH MISSION AND FUND.

Mr. H. E. Pollock, the Hon. Treasurer of the Seamen's Church and Mission Fund, acknowledges with thanks the receipt of the following subscriptions to date:—

| | | |
|---|-----|-------|
| The Hongkong and Shanghai Bank | ... | \$100 |
| Messrs. Butterfield and Swire | ... | 100 |
| " Jardine, Matheson and Co. | ... | 100 |
| The Union Insurance Society of Canton | ... | 100 |
| Proceeds of P. O. O. for £10 from Mr. W. Tarn | ... | 94.35 |
| The Right Rev. Bishop of Victoria | ... | 50 |
| The Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co. | ... | 50 |
| Messrs. Lane, Crawford and Co. | ... | 50 |
| " Carlowitz and Co. | ... | 50 |
| " Arnold, Karberg and Co. | ... | 50 |
| " Siemssen and Co. | ... | 50 |
| " Melchers and Co. | ... | 50 |
| " Dodwell and Co. | ... | 50 |
| The Peninsular and Oriental S. N. Co. | ... | 50 |
| Sir Thomas Jackson | ... | 25 |
| Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master | ... | 25 |
| " Gibb, Livingston and Co. | ... | 25 |
| " Bradley and Co. | ... | 25 |
| " David Sassoon, Sons and Co. | ... | 25 |
| " Palmer and Turner | ... | 25 |
| " A. S. Watson and Co. | ... | 25 |
| The Hongkong Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company | ... | 25 |
| Mr. R. Shewan | ... | 25 |
| Messrs. Gilman and Co. | ... | 25 |
| Mr. D. Gillies | ... | 25 |
| " W. J. Saunders | ... | 10 |
| " Edward Osborne | ... | 10 |

Total received to date.....\$1,234.35

THE ITALIAN CONVENT.

The Mother Superior of the Italian Convent begs to acknowledge the receipt of the following sums:—

| | | |
|--------------|-----|-------|
| A Friend | ... | \$100 |
| A. R. Marty | ... | 50 |
| Fung Wa Chün | ... | 25 |
| Un Lai Chuen | ... | 25 |

She also begs to acknowledge the receipt from the following Chinese gentlemen of subscriptions to the Hospital or Infirmary fund:—

| | | |
|---|-----|-------|
| Wong Tsuk Lamg and several of his friends | ... | \$275 |
| Sin Tak Fan | ... | ... |
| Li Fuk Tsau | ... | ... |
| Leung Wing Cheung | ... | 150 |
| Wong Chi Chan | ... | ... |
| and several other gentlemen | ... | ... |
| Ho Tung | ... | 50 |
| Fung Wa Chün | ... | 50 |
| Hon. Wei A Yuk | ... | 25 |
| Chan A Fook | ... | 25 |
| Lan Wai Chun | ... | 25 |
| Messrs. Ron Wei & Co. | ... | 25 |
| Chen Quinn Un | ... | ... |
| Pan Kwai Leung | ... | ... |

We are requested by the Mother Superior to convey her sincere and grateful thanks to the following firms, &c., who so generously assisted at the A. D. C. performance:—

The Colonel and Officers, R.W.F., for the band.

The Hongkong Telegraph Co. for advertisement.

The Messrs. Robinson Piano Co. for hire of pianos.

The Hongkong High Level Tramways Co. for special cars.

The Hongkong and China Gas Co.

Mrs. Quinn and Staff of ushers.

The A. D. C. for refreshments; and those who largely reduced their charges in connection with the performance and its advertisement.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED.

EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING.

An extraordinary general meeting of shareholders in the above company was held at the company's office, Queen's Road Central, on Thursday, 20th inst., at noon, when the subjoined resolution (which was passed at an extraordinary general meeting of the company held on the 4th December), was submitted for confirmation as a special resolution:—"That the Regulations approved by this meeting and for the purposes of identification subscribed by the General Managers be and the same are hereby approved. And that such Regulations be and they are hereby adopted as the Regulations of the Company to the exclusion of all existing Regulations thereof."

Mr. Hart Buck presided, and there were also present:—Messrs. H. Humphreys, C. Ewens, A. H. Mancell (Secretary), T. Arnold, S. A. Joseph, J. F. Reece, W. S. Harrison, W. D. Sutton, W. E. Clement, J. S. Hagen, J. A. Tarrant, W. C. Taylor.

The SECRETARY read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, before putting the Resolution to the meeting I should like to say a few words respecting a letter which appeared in the *Hongkong Daily Press* of the 18th inst. signed by Mr. J. F. Reece. I was not sorry to see this letter as it gives me an opportunity of knowing exactly what points in the proposed alterations Mr. Reece, and possibly other shareholders, would like explained. In a letter sent to the General Managers by Mr. Reece the day before the last Meeting he simply dealt with the question as to whether we were adopting the correct legal course in making the proposed alterations, and as we were advised by the Company's solicitor that we were, I did not think it necessary at the first meeting to refer to the matter, though I may now inform you that we have decided, if the Resolution is confirmed, to take the opinion of the Solicitors in London, who drew up the first Articles of Association, on the point raised. With regard to the other part of Mr. Reece's letter I notice that he is of opinion that I might have gone more into detail at the first meeting, and he also says the meeting was "scarcely a representative one." I can only say that the meeting was duly advertised, and any shareholder who wished to attend could have done so, and if the attendance was small the fault lay with those who were absent, not those who were present. I am inclined to agree with Mr. Reece that it might have been more satisfactory if I had explained the proposed alterations more minutely, but I must remind him that although I offered to answer any question relating to them no questions were put to me. I do not quite understand Mr. Reece's motive in asking his questions through the medium of the public Press instead of to the General Managers or to me at the last or at this meeting, but as he has thought fit to do so I will endeavour to explain to the best of my ability. In the first place he calls attention to the remuneration of the General Managers. I mentioned at the last meeting that one of the reasons for altering the Articles was that they had been drawn up in 1885, when the management of the Company was vested solely in the late General Manager, Mr. John D. Humphreys. During his life the firm of John D. Humphreys & Son had, as a firm, nothing to do with the Management of the Company, but individual members of the firm held positions on the staff for which, of course, they received remuneration. One member of the firm of John D. Humphreys & Son is, for instance, agent and attorney for A. S. Watson & Co. in London, and it is this state of affairs we wish to alter, as we do not consider it desirable that members of the firm of General Managers should also be employees of the Company. With regard to the fee of \$3,600 per annum this sum was arranged as the fee for the General Manager when the dollar was worth almost double its present value and when the business of the Company was about one third of what it is at present, and I think you will agree with me in thinking that the increase we propose to make is not too much. As far as commission on profits is concerned you will notice that we should not draw commission unless the net profits for the year were at least 7 per cent. With regard to the second para-

graph in Mr. Reece's letter, I do not see that anything but good can come through the General Managers holding a large number of shares in the Company. I have already explained why we consider it desirable to change the working in the London Agency, namely the fact that one of our firm is permanently there, but I think Mr. Reece might have put the matter before the shareholders in a little clearer manner. He simply quotes the fact that we propose to charge 2½ per cent. on all goods ordered for the Company, but says nothing about the expenses we propose to relieve the Company of in London. Clause 82 in the new articles reads: "The firm of John D. Humphreys & Son so long as they are General Managers must act as the London Agents of the Company, and the whole cost of such agency shall be borne by them, including office and warehouse rent, salaries of employees, rates, lighting, stationery and petty charges, and as remuneration therefore and their services the firm of John D. Humphreys and Son shall be entitled to charge a commission of two and one half per centum on all goods ordered for or by the Company from any person, firm or Company carrying on business in Great Britain, the Continent of Europe, Canada, or the United States of America. This really means that the General Managers would have to bear all the expenses of the upkeep of the London office, and after going carefully into the figures of 1899 we find that there would be very little difference in the expense to the Company who would receive the benefit of the increased credit which would arise from the coupling of the name of our firm with its own in all mercantile transactions. I do not for one moment think that Mr. Reece has purposely misrepresented the matter, but I must say I should have expected greater accuracy from a lawyer of his experience. With regard to the Consulting Committee I take it for granted that this arrangement will be acceptable to shareholders, but shall be pleased to listen to any remarks on this subject. I notice Mr. Reece says in his letter that the Company used to pay a steady 14 per cent. and it now pays 10 or 11 per cent. and he would like to know how the proposed alteration will probably affect future dividends. To be strictly accurate after 14 per cent. had been paid for 3 years 8 per cent. was paid for the year 1893, 9 per cent. for 1894, and since then 10 per cent. until 1898 and 1899, when the dividend was 11 per cent. each year; previous to 1888 the dividend had not been more than 13 per cent. The drop in the dividend in 1893 must be attributed to the depreciation of the dollar, but I am pleased to say that we see no reason to think that our present dividend will not be maintained, in fact there is reason to hope it may improve. Before putting the resolution to the meeting I should like to state that in the future we should feel much obliged to shareholders who desire any information about the affairs of the Company if they would come to the Office and make enquiries there instead of stating their opinions, which are possibly inaccurate and misleading, in the public Press—a proceeding which cannot possibly benefit their own interests or those of the Company. We are always only too pleased to afford any information to shareholders, as many of them have experienced in the past. If there is anything further I can explain I shall be happy to do so.

Mr. REECE said—Mr. Chairman, I am very much obliged to you for the explanations you have given, and I may say that the only fault I find with them is that they come a little too late. It seems to me it would have been better if some explanation of this description had been given at the first meeting. We are asked to pass certain alterations, and I must say that when the meeting of 4th December was held very few of the shareholders had the faintest idea what the alterations were. Very little was said as to how the remuneration of the general managers was to be increased, or the reasons why it was thought advisable that it should be increased. You said at the last meeting that the principal changes between the old Articles and the new Articles, which we are now considering, are: "The remuneration of the General Managers, the increase in the number of qualification shares necessary to be held by the General Managers, the change in the working of the London Agency, and the appointment of a consult-

ing Committee." But you did not state how the remuneration was to be increased, or state that it was to be increased, and no reasons were given to the meeting for the increase in the remuneration. I do not say at all that the remuneration should not be increased, but I think that some reason should have been given at the first meeting for increasing the remuneration. I find reference to the new Articles on the table now that the remuneration is to be increased in this way. At present the general managers have a salary of \$3,600 per annum. Under the new regulations they are to receive \$7,200, and also a commission of 5 per cent. of the net profits in any year in which the net profits amount to 7 per cent. on the capital of the Company. Now I am unable to say from the last report and balance sheet what the remuneration of the general managers was in 1899. Of course, under a deed of settlement, under the present regulations, they were entitled to receive \$3,600, but it is not stated in the accounts and it does not appear from the accounts what is the actual remuneration of the general managers—whether they got any commission or whether they were paid office fees or anything of that sort. No details of the profit they made out of the Company are given at all. But supposing the shareholders are of opinion that the remuneration should be increased, 5 per cent. on the net profits should not, I submit, be given unless there is some limit upon it. I see it is the practice in England for the Stock Exchange to stipulate for this, because there is a temptation to general managers to inflate, on paper at any rate, the net profits of the Company, in order to get larger remuneration than they would get otherwise. But supposing, for instance, that the net profits of the Company amount to 7 per cent. on the capital, that would amount, in all, to \$42,000. I believe the capital is \$600,000, so that if the general managers get 5 per cent. they will get a commission of \$2,100 altogether. Including \$7,200 of salary they would get \$9,300 under the new regulations, and there would be left about \$39,000 as the net profits to be applied in payment of dividend and in other ways, i.e., it is possible, putting the profits at 7 per cent. only, that the general managers might be getting a remuneration to the extent of \$9,300 under the new regulations, and the shareholders would get a dividend of only 6 per cent. It seems to me that if the general managers are to be paid by commission, it will be much more satisfactory that the commission should be paid not on the net profits but on the dividend declared, and that the general managers should not have any commission or percentage unless a dividend of 10 per cent. were paid to the shareholders. As to the qualification shares, I think the Chairman misunderstood me; I have always been of opinion that the directors of a company should have a large interest in it; the larger number of shares they hold the better for the interests of the company. As to the change in the working of the London Agency and the payment of 2½ per cent. commission on goods ordered, I may say that the new regulations were only lent to me for a short time by the Secretary of this Company, and that I returned them after perusal and making a few short notes. It escaped my memory that Messrs. J. D. Humphreys and Son, in London, bore certain expenses. I had no intention of making any misrepresentation in this respect. As to payment of the Consulting Committee, that is a matter also for the consideration of the shareholders. I notice that they are to have \$2,500 per year as remuneration in any year in which the net profits amount to 7 per cent. of the capital. It seems to me that as there are only four to be paid that is an awkward sum to divide among four; \$2,000 would be better. Generally speaking, I shall still have to vote against the confirmation of the resolution, or if necessary I should move an amendment that it be not confirmed, and I must do so for reasons expressed in my letter. I am still of opinion that the wrong course was adopted by the General Managers; it would have been more convenient to alter the constitution of the company by substituting a memorandum and articles of association for the deed of settlement. I see it is intitled a memorandum and articles of association, but that is misleading, because the old deed of settlement.—

At this point Mr. Henry Humphreys showed

Mr. Reece another draft, which bore the title "Articles of Association."

Mr. REECE (resuming)—I see that the other draft is called 'Articles of Association.' I beg your pardon. The one sent me was entitled 'Memorandum,' but as a matter of fact the new regulations are the old deed of settlement with some alterations, and it seems to me it would have been more convenient to proceed under the Companies Ordinance of 1890 and to get clean Articles of Association. It would have been more convenient and saved complications, but I do not want to raise legal matters just now. It would have been better if the shareholders had had these explanations given at the first meeting; I think that even now an adjournment ought to be given to give the shareholders time to consider what the Chairman has said, and whether the explanations of the Chairman are satisfactory. It is usual when it is proposed to increase the remuneration of directors, or where Articles of Association are amended, to furnish information that what is proposed to be done is *prima facie* in the interest of the general management, and then the shareholders can make up their minds and say whether the proposals are fair or reasonable. I do think it would have been better in this case if the explanations had been given at the first meeting, and for this reason I must vote against the proposed alterations.

The CHAIRMAN—We have listened with interest to what Mr. Reece has had to say, but, in my opinion, it would have been better if he had attended at the first meeting and asked his questions then. I must remind him that until we know what points shareholders wish explained to them we cannot very well go into detail. If we knew the shareholders required certain points explained we should be only too happy to explain, and if Mr. Reece had come to the office and asked the Secretary or myself, or any of us, we should have given him the explanation. Instead of that he writes to the newspapers. Only one day before the last meeting he sent us a letter, and only two days before this meeting sent us another. It was quite possible for him. I suppose, to come to the meeting and get all the information he required, and it is possible for every other shareholder to do so. I regret he has taken the line he has taken.

Mr. ARNOLD—Would it not have been better to have the alterations printed and sent round to the shareholders? When it is proposed to alter Articles of Association, it is usual to send round copies of the old articles with the alterations proposed.

The CHAIRMAN—I think we followed the usual custom.

Mr. ARNOLD—I think not. I think every shareholder should have known what it was proposed to alter. It would be more satisfactory to send these things round to the shareholders, as is done by other companies, and thus give the shareholders every opportunity of studying them.

The CHAIRMAN—My opinion is that it should be treated as a purely business matter. It is advertised, and the shareholders should come and ask the information or attend the meeting and ask any questions from the Chairman.

Mr. ARNOLD—Shareholders will not take that trouble. They are not able, just by looking at the thing on the counter, to study it carefully.

The CHAIRMAN—You make a mistake. A great number of the shareholders do come in and ask questions.

Mr. ARNOLD—Every shareholder will not take the trouble. I think it would be better to bring the alterations to the notice of every shareholder. It is not much trouble. Printing is cheap, and paper is cheap; and it might have been sent round. The shareholders ought to have an opportunity of seeing the proposed alterations.

Mr. HARRISON—I would suggest that we should have a copy of the articles it is proposed to alter, and also a copy of the last balance sheet, and that we might have them for a fortnight to consider them; and this meeting might be postponed till we know exactly what we are called upon to vote on. I had no time to come to the office, and as I thought it would be some technical matter, I did not take the trouble of coming to the meet-

ing. Mr. Reece's letter in the paper first called my attention to the matter.

The CHAIRMAN—I am sorry, Mr. Harrison, I do not quite agree with your suggestion, that we should send a copy of the new resolution and the old resolution and report and last statement of accounts to every shareholder. The shareholders receive statements of accounts at each general meeting, and any one who wishes to read the Articles can read them. Our shareholders are all over the world, we may say. It is altogether against the custom in Hongkong, and I do not see why we should go out of the usual custom. If anyone has any further remarks to make—

Mr. ARNOLD—Do I understand the election of a Consulting Committee rests entirely with the General Managers or with the shareholders?

The CHAIRMAN—With the General Managers and confirmation by the shareholders.

Mr. ARNOLD—Suppose the shareholders do not confirm the election of the Committee, is it left for them to elect somebody else?

The CHAIRMAN—As a rule, General Managers elect the Consulting Committee.

Mr. ARNOLD—The election of a Consulting Committee is left entirely in the hands of the General Managers?

The CHAIRMAN—We put forward their names.

Mr. REECE—May I ask whom you propose appointing to the Consulting Committee?

The CHAIRMAN—I don't think your question comes within the business of this meeting.

Mr. REECE—I put the question because it seems to me that it is very pertinent to these proposed regulations.

The CHAIRMAN—There may be some little doubt about some of the gentlemen mentioned accepting, and I do not wish to put forward their names unless they definitely decide to act.

Mr. HARRISON—Can you say whether it will be comprised of a member of the firm of A. S. Watson and Co.—J. D. Humphreys, I mean?

The CHAIRMAN—We are now considering the Articles of A. S. Watson and Co., Ltd., and naturally the Consulting Committee would belong to A. S. Watson and Co., Ltd.

Mr. HUMPHREYS—He wants to know whether there is anyone outside the Company's staff?

The CHAIRMAN—Yes, outside.

The CHAIRMAN then put the resolution, as follows:—That the Regulations approved by this meeting and for the purposes of identification subscribed by the General Managers be and the same are hereby approved. And that such Regulations be and they are hereby adopted as the Regulations of the Company, to the exclusion of all existing Regulations thereof."

Mr. REECE—Before you put that resolution, I move the adjournment of the meeting to enable the shareholders to consider the matter.

Mr. HARRISON seconded.

The amendment was put to the meeting and lost.

Mr. JOSEPH then seconded the resolution, which was carried.

The CHAIRMAN—That, I think, is all the business of the meeting, gentlemen. Thank you for your attendance.

The meeting then terminated.

Our Shanghai morning contemporary quotes a letter from Tientsin, in which the writer says:—"We are very angry with the Russians for claiming the whole of the eastern bank of the Peiho, opposite to us, as their settlement by right of war, 'Russian blood having been spilt on the soil.' As the value of this land is entirely due to the fact that our people have made it so, and as if the Russians take it, they may proceed to make jetties and so block the river fairway altogether, we are keenly interested in bluffing them off. Nine-tenths of all our revenue comes from our bund fees and mooring fees; still worse, the railway from Tangku passes through the ground they now claim, and in the event of the river becoming unnavigable the fortune or failure of the three concessions, British, French, and German, will be in the hollow of the Russian hand, for it will be in their power if they are allowed to take this concession to block off us, the Germans, and the French from future railway communication with Tangku."

HONGKONG HIGH-LEVEL TRAMWAYS CO., LIMITED.

The following is the report for presentation to the shareholders at the sixteenth ordinary general meeting, to be held at the Company's Registered Offices, 38 and 40, Queen's Road Central, on Thursday, the 27th day of December, 1900, at twelve o'clock, noon:—

We beg to lay before you the report and statement of accounts for the year ending 30th November, 1900.

The traffic receipts for the twelve months, together with transfer fees, amount to \$73,737.05. After paying interest and all running expenses and making provision for auditors' fees, there remains a net profit on the year's working of \$23,242.10, which, added to \$2,369.67 carried forward from last year, gives a sum of \$30,611.77 available for appropriation. Your General Managers and Consulting Committee recommend that a dividend of \$14 per share be paid to shareholders, absorbing \$17,500, and that \$10,000 be carried to the Permanent Reserve Fund, leaving \$3,111.77 to be carried forward to new account.

CONSULTING COMMITTEE.

On the departure of Mr. J. Orange from the Colony in April last, Mr. R. K. Leigh was invited to fill the vacancy, and accepted a seat on the Board. In accordance with Rule 15 of the Company's Articles of Association, the present members, Messrs. C. Ewins, R. K. Leigh and C. W. Dickson retire, but being eligible offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.

In the absence of Mr. Fullerton Henderson from the colony, his place has been taken by Mr. W. H. Gaskell, who has, in conjunction with Mr. W. Hutton Potts, audited the accounts. Mr. Henderson and Mr. Potts offer themselves for re-election.

JOHN D. HUMPHREYS & SON,
General Managers.

Hongkong 18th December, 1900.

BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30TH NOVEMBER, 1900.

| LIABILITIES. | | \$ | c. |
|--|--|--------------|----|
| Capital account:—1,250 shares of \$100 each fully paid up | | 125,000.00 | |
| Permanent reserve fund | | 5,000.00 | |
| Unclaimed dividends | | 580.00 | |
| Local and general liabilities | | 8,853.89 | |
| Profit and loss:—Brought forward \$2,369.67 | | | |
| Do. For current year 28,242.10 | | | |
| | | 30,611.77 | |
| | | \$170,045.06 | |
| ASSETS. | | \$ | c. |
| Permanent way, concession, and deed of grant | | 125,000.00 | |
| Stations, Crown leaseholds, and buildings (Inland lots 1,317, 1,332, 1,333, 1,334, 1,335, 1,353, and R. B. lot 86) | | 13,388.48 | |
| Rolling stock | | 21,766.87 | |
| Furniture account | | 125.00 | |
| Coals and stores in hand | | 159.50 | |
| Accounts receivable | | 2,070.50 | |
| Cash in H. and S. Bank | | \$6,134.05 | |
| Cash and compradore's orders in hand | | 1,401.26 | |
| | | 7,535.31 | |
| | | \$170,045.06 | |
| PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT. | | \$ | c. |
| Dr. | | | |
| To salaries and wages | | 17,474.79 | |
| To charges | | 5,208.18 | |
| To maintenance and repairs | | 7,505.33 | |
| To coals and stores | | 8,627.84 | |
| To interest | | 1,019.30 | |
| To rates, Crown rent, and fire insurance | | 1,017.01 | |
| To godown and station rent | | \$2,100.00 | |
| Less sundry rents received | | 607.50 | |
| | | 1,492.50 | |
| To General Managers' and auditors' fees | | 1,350.00 | |
| To office rent and clerks' salaries, &c. | | 1,800.00 | |
| To balance | | 30,611.77 | |
| | | \$76,106.72 | |
| Cr. | | | |
| By amount brought forward from last year | | 2,369.67 | |
| By transfer fees | | 4.00 | |
| By traffic receipts for the year to date | | 73,733.05 | |
| | | \$76,106.72 | |

The only case of communicable disease notified as occurring in the Colony last week was one of small-pox, outside the limits of the City of Victoria.

SUPREME COURT.

Saturday, 15th December.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR T. SERCOMBE SMITH
(ACTING PUISNE JUDGE).

BATHURST V. WATKINS.

In this case Harry Bathurst, of Victoria View, master mariner, was the plaintiff and G. A. Watkins, manager of Watkins Limited, was the defendant. The following were the particulars of the claim:—(1) For victualling the defendant on board the transport *Hailoong* from 23rd June to 6th July, £6 1s. 4d. (2) For victualling the Chinese servant of the defendant on board the *Hailoong* from the 23rd June to the 29th July, \$27.75. (3) For the supply of refreshments to the defendant on board the *Hailoong* \$18.86. (4) For the use of chart room by the defendant on board the *Hailoong*, \$50. Total \$159.91.

Mr. M. J. D. Stephens appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Grist for the defendant.

Mr. Stephens explained that since ten o'clock the previous day the defendant's solicitor had written him a letter making certain proposals for settlement, and had paid into court \$36.50. He was not able to see his client until that morning about a quarter to ten. He had to go into figures, and it was almost ten o'clock when he came over to the court, and he was unable to see the defendant's solicitor, Mr. Grist. Since then another little sum had been added, and he had promised to withdraw the suit. It was rather late when he came in to see the Registrar about withdrawing it. The Registrar told him that the case was to come on. He now applied for permission to withdraw the case, on the understanding that he received the sum of \$5 more towards the servant's victualling and \$5.50 more towards the costs. Mr. Grist had given him an undertaking to that effect.

Mr. Grist—Yes, that is so.

The suit was accordingly withdrawn.

Tuesday, 18th December.

CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR JOHN CARRINGTON, C.M.G. (CHIEF JUSTICE).

The criminal sessions opened yesterday morning, the following being the calendar:—

1. Bernard Jorus—defilement of a girl between 12 and 16 years of age.
2. Pailwan Khan.
3. Chan Chiu—(1) housebreaking; (2) receiving stolen goods.
4. Chan Chiu, Tang Wing, and Chan Kwan—(1) housebreaking; (2) receiving stolen goods.
5. Chan Chiu—housebreaking with intent to commit a felony.
6. Chan Chiu, Tang Wing, and Chan Kwan—(1) housebreaking; (2) receiving stolen goods.
7. Chan Chiu, Tang Wing, and Chan Kwan—(1) burglary; (2) receiving stolen goods.
8. Chan Kwan, Tang Wing.
9. Liu Ng—being a member of an unlawful society.

EVIDENCE UNSATISFACTORY.

In regard to the Indian Pailwan Khan (who had been committed for trial on an abominable offence) the Attorney-General (the Hon. W. Meigh Goodman, Q.C.) said he had had an opportunity, since the Magistrate committed the case for trial of making further enquiries into it, and he had come to the conclusion that the evidence was of that character that he could not ask a jury to convict. Therefore he had not filed an indictment against the man and did not propose to do so. Therefore probably his Lordship would allow the man to go. He might say in regard to this matter that he had made careful enquiries, and had come to the conclusion that the evidence was not satisfactory. He thought it quite right of the Magistrate to commit the man for trial. He was not reflecting in the least upon the Magistrate.

The man was accordingly informed that the Attorney-General did not propose to make an indictment against him and he was discharged.

THE CASE AGAINST BERNARD JORUS.

The Attorney-General said there was the case against Bernard Jorus. It was the first case in the calendar. His learned friend Mr. Slade appeared for the defence. He thought they would have enough business to keep them all day and that it might be said that the case would not be taken that day. He could not say much more at present, but he would release his learned friend until to-morrow and release the man from being here to-day.

The Chief Justice—Can I take it to-morrow morning?

The Attorney-General—Subject to the state of business. We can hardly tell how the cases will go to-day.

CAUGHT RED-HANDED.

Case No. 5, in which Chan Chiu was charged with housebreaking with intent to commit a felony, was taken next. This prisoner is implicated in other cases. In this particular case he pleaded guilty.

The Attorney-General said he must ask that the sentence might be postponed. There were several other cases against this man.

The Chief Justice—Do you propose to take them now?

The Attorney-General—Yes; I propose to take case No. 4 in the calendar, in which this man, another man, and a woman are implicated. He added that this man had pleaded guilty to breaking into a house at No. 2, Aberdeen Street, with intent to commit a felony on the 18th November, this being the day after a successful robbery had been committed at the same place. In consequence of the robbery on the 17th the cook hid himself in the house the following day, and in this way caught the prisoner on his breaking in.

ROBBERY IN ABERDEEN STREET.

The fourth case was then taken, Chan Chiu, Tang Wing, and Chan Kwan being charged with (1) housebreaking and (2) receiving stolen goods. The first prisoner pleaded guilty on the first count and not guilty on the second, the second prisoner pleaded guilty on the second count and not guilty on the first, and the third prisoner pleaded not guilty on both counts.

The jurors were Messrs. Luis Carlos do Rozario, Thomas Stafford, A. S. Gubbay, L. E. Ozorio, W. T. Shewan, M. Fujise, and A. F. Osmond.

The Chief Justice—Mr. Attorney-General, with regard to the first and second prisoners, do you propose to go on against them on the other count?

The Attorney-General—I am afraid it is incumbent upon me to proceed against the woman.

The Chief Justice—Then we will go on generally.

The Attorney-General—I am afraid so. Continuing he said these prisoners stood charged on an indictment which had two counts in it—firstly with breaking into a house and stealing property, and secondly with receiving stolen property. The premises which were broken into were at No. 2, Aberdeen Street, and were occupied by a man named Chau Yu Ping. This man happened to go away on business for a few days and he left the place in charge of a boy. The boy was a careful boy but he had to leave the premises to go down to the office on certain days, but before he went he always looked up the premises. On the 12th November he left the house locked up at nine o'clock in the morning. When he returned at twelve o'clock he found that one of the two locks which has been on the door was still there but that it had been opened by a pick-lock. The other lock had been broken off. He found that a leather box belonging to his master, which contained a considerable number of goods, had been stolen. Some goods belonging to a female servant named Au Kan, who had gone to Macao, had also been taken away. At that time there was no trace of who had done the mischief. The cook, however, was fairly smart. He thought that as the thief had left a few things behind he might return for them. The cook accordingly locked up the premises on the 18th inst. and hid himself inside. Presently the first prisoner came and picked one of the locks, broke the other, and came inside. He was rather surprised to find the cook waiting for him. He tried to get away, running downstairs as fast as he could. The cook followed and

caught him. The first prisoner then gave away his comrade, the second prisoner, who had pleaded guilty to receiving the stolen goods. Then the police from information received went to the house No. 6, Sin Hing Lane. On the second floor there was a cubicle which was rented by the old woman, the third prisoner. This old woman came to Hongkong about the 28th October. She rented this cubicle about three weeks before this robbery, and this cubicle was nothing in the world but a receiving house. It contained the produce of several robberies. There was not a shadow of doubt that the jury would come to the conclusion that the place was rented practically for the purpose of facilitating thieving. She and her so-called son, who had pleaded guilty to receiving these things, resided there. There was only one cubicle between them, and it was perfectly absurd that the old woman was under the impression that her son came by these things honestly. The second prisoner had pleaded guilty to receiving these things because he could not help himself, the having been found on the place where his mother was living. The first prisoner had pleaded guilty to stealing the things, and he was satisfied with that. As regarded the second prisoner, he had pleaded guilty to receiving and he was satisfied with that. He was not satisfied that he did not take part in stealing the goods, but he was satisfied with his plea of guilty of receiving. Of course the old woman pleaded not guilty, and it would be for the jury to say whether she was guilty or not.

Evidence having been given by the cook, the woman servant, and Chau Yu Ping, Sergeant Murison entered the box, and deposed to finding some of the stolen property in the cubicle rented by the third prisoner at No. 6, Sin Hing Lane, as well as the proceeds of other robberies. Some of the latter were identified by the owners.

On Kam Shing, sergeant interpreter at the Central Police Station, gave evidence as to statements made by the prisoners on their being charged. The woman in her statement said it was not she who received the property. A man named Chan brought the things to her in a trunk, and her son opened it. They took something out and went to pawn it. She knew that that was stolen property.

In his address to the jury, the Chief Justice advised them to return a verdict of not guilty on the second count against the first prisoner, seeing that he had pleaded guilty to stealing the goods. He recommended them to return a verdict of not guilty on the first count against the second prisoner, who had pleaded guilty to receiving the goods. The woman had pleaded not guilty on both counts. His Lordship reminded the jury that the Attorney-General had also given evidence of goods stolen from 11, Wing On Street, on the 10th November, and 3, Wo On Lane, on the 15th November, being found in the cubicle of the third prisoner.

The jury acted upon the suggestion of the Chief Justice with regard to the first and second prisoners. They found the woman not guilty on the first count and guilty on the second count.

ANOTHER CASE AGAINST THE SAME PRISONERS.

The Chief Justice—Attorney-General: You have another case against the first prisoner.

The Attorney-General said he had two or three. He did not think it would be necessary to proceed with more than one other case as things stood. The first prisoner had pleaded guilty to breaking in with intent to steal, and he had also pleaded guilty to stealing. There being two convictions against him he was inclined to stop there. As to the second prisoner, there was only one conviction against him, and he thought it would be necessary to take another case. He proposed to take the case No. 6, in which the second prisoner was discovered wearing part of the stolen property. He did not intend to proceed against the old woman further.

The sixth case was then proceeded with. The counts in the indictment were the same as in the previous case. The first prisoner pleaded guilty on the first count and not guilty on the second. The second prisoner pleaded not guilty on both counts.

The jurors were Messrs. V. F. F. Ribeiro, E. Shellim, H. B. Carter, C. Clinck, F. H. Yeats, R. Saxon, and J. M. G. Pereira.

The Attorney-General said the first prisoner had pleaded guilty to stealing, and therefore he did not care to trouble the jury about the second count of receiving so far as the first prisoner was concerned. He would be satisfied with a verdict of not guilty on the second count. As regarded the second prisoner that was a matter for the jury. The question chiefly was whether he received this property knowing it to have been stolen on the 15th November at No. 3, Wo Hon Street, where there were some people living. The cook went out at 11 o'clock in the morning, locking the door after him. On returning about three-quarters of an hour afterwards he found that the premises had been broken into during his absence and a number of things stolen. Among the things stolen and recovered was a waistcoat, which the second prisoner was found wearing, some of the other property being also found in the cubicle occupied by them.

Evidence was led, and the jury found the first prisoner not guilty of receiving, and the second prisoner not guilty of stealing but guilty of receiving.

The Attorney-General said there were two more cases in which these prisoners were concerned—No. 3, in which Chan Chui was charged with (1) housebreaking and (2) receiving stolen property; and No. 7, in which Chan Chui, Tang Wing, and Chan Kwan, who were charged with (1) housebreaking and (2) receiving stolen goods. He thought Chan Chui might be called upon to plead in the third case—that was the charge against Chan Chui alone.

On the indictment being read over to him the prisoner pleaded guilty of receiving and not guilty of stealing.

The Attorney-General—I am quite content with that plea, my Lord. I do not propose to proceed further with the case.

The Attorney-General said there was another case—No. 7—in which all the three prisoners were concerned. He did not know that any useful purpose would be served by going on with it.

The Chief Justice: I think you have done enough to vindicate justice.

The Attorney-General asked that the property pawned might be handed back to the owners without compensation to the pawn-brokers.

His Lordship, however, directed that it should be returned on the payment to the pawn-brokers of the amount for which the property was pawned.

The Chief Justice directed that the whole of the three prisoners concerned in these charges should be brought up to-morrow morning for sentence.

A TRIAD SOCIETY CASE.

Liu Ng, who was charged with being a member of an unlawful society, pleaded not guilty.

The jury was composed of the following:—Messrs. L. C. do Rozario, A. Ellis, E. A. da Silva, J. M. A. Graça, D. S. Gubbay, E. A. H. Siebs, and T. F. A. Verney.

It appeared from the statement of the Attorney-General that on the 30th October, the police visited a house in the Tai Hang Village, behind the Polo Ground occupied by the prisoner, and Sergeant Ritchie found therein in a basket belonging to the prisoner certain articles which had been identified as being connected with the Triad Society.

Evidence was then led.

The jury found the prisoner not guilty, and he was accordingly discharged.

Wednesday, 19th December.

CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR JOHN CARRINGTON, C.M.G. (CHIEF JUSTICE).

THE HOUSEBREAKING CASES.

Chan Chiu, Tang Wing, and Chan Kwan, who had been concerned in several housebreaking cases, came up for judgment.

The Chief Justice, addressing the first prisoner, said—Chan Chiu, you were tried on four indictments yesterday. The first was in case number 3. You there pleaded guilty to receiving stolen goods on the 7th of November last. In case number 6 you pleaded guilty to housebreaking and larceny committed on the 15th November. In case number 4 you pleaded guilty to housebreaking and larceny on the 17th

November, and in case number 5 you pleaded guilty to housebreaking with intent to commit larceny on the 18th November. It is clear, therefore, that your case is a very bad one. You think you can come down to this colony and prey upon the peaceable inhabitants of it. You will find you are mistaken, and will have a long time to think about your mistake in gaol. The sentence of the Court upon you is that you be imprisoned for nine months with hard labour in case number 3; that you be imprisoned with hard labour for two years in case number 6; that you be imprisoned with hard labour for two years in case number 4; and that you be imprisoned for 15 months with hard labour in case number 5, the sentences to follow one another.

Addressing the second prisoner, the Chief Justice said—You, Tang Wing, were tried on two indictments—cases numbers 6 and 4. In case number 6 you were convicted by the verdict of the jury of receiving stolen goods on the 15th November last. In case number 4 you pleaded guilty to receiving stolen goods on the 17th November last. I am not at all sure in my own mind that you did not have a part in the robbery and housebreaking and larceny as well. But, however, that was not brought home against you, and therefore no effect is given to that. At any rate you were receiving stolen goods in a wholesale fashion. The sentence of the Court upon you is that in case number 6 you be imprisoned for nine months with hard labour, and that you undergo a similar sentence in case number 4. The sentence in case number 4 will take effect on the expiration of the sentence in case number 6.

Addressing the third prisoner, the Chief Justice said—You, Chan Kwan, were tried on an indictment which charged you with receiving stolen goods on the 17th November last. That was in case number 4; you pleaded not guilty, but the jury found you guilty on very clear evidence. I have no doubt that you and your son, the second prisoner, regularly organised this place to receive stolen goods, those goods being stolen by the first prisoner and perhaps by your son, the second prisoner, also. The sentence of the Court upon you is that you undergo imprisonment for nine months with hard labour.

THE CASE AGAINST BERNARD JORUS.

Bernard Jorus, who was charged with the defilement of a girl between 12 and 16 years of age, pleaded not guilty. The accused was defended by Mr. Slade.

The jurors were Messrs. V. F. V. Ribeiro, T. Spafford, E. Shellim, L. C. do Rozario, John Gloyn, H. Strubey, J. M. G. Pereira.

The Attorney-General (the Hon. W. Meigh Goodman, Q.C.) said that at the time when this offence was committed—some time at the beginning of last month—the accused was living at the Eastern Hotel, for which he obtained a license in October, 1899. Jorus was formerly in the service of the Maritime Customs as a tide-waiter, and he knew nothing against him at that time and until this offence. He married a Chinese woman named Leung Yau at the Registrar General's Office on the 15th February, 1889, and four years after his marriage he left the Customs at Canton and came to Hongkong. They did not seem to have had any children, although they had been married 11 years. On coming to Hongkong they lived at various places. At one time they lived at Wanchai. Then they went to 165, Queen's Road East. Then they went to Kowloon, and remained there till about July, 1899, when they returned to Wanchai and finally went to the Eastern Hotel, which was at 192 and 194, Queen's Road East. Having no children of her own, the woman appeared to have adopted three daughters at different times—one named Ah Lin, who was 18 months old when adopted; another named Sui Kam, who was adopted when three days old; and a third named Chan Lui Hee, who was adopted by this woman when about six years old, Chinese reckoning. Chinese reckoning was different from European reckoning. An European child was not considered to be one year old until it had been in the world 12 months, but a Chinese child was considered to be one year old as soon as it is born. The age of the third child at present was somewhere about 14 years and a half. Things went on for some time. A year or two ago there was some sort of quarrel be-

tween the wife and the husband, and she left him for a short time. The quarrel was patched up and they lived together again. Somewhere about the middle of this year the mother noticed that Chan Lui Hee was *enceinte*. She taxed her with it and the child gave an explanation. The child would tell the jury that she was made *enceinte* by the accused, and that nobody else had had anything to do with her. Things went on until October, when there was another quarrel, and the couple again separated, the woman taking the two younger children and leaving Chan Lui Hee behind. In consequence of information received the police arrested him, it being alleged that the accused had improper intimacy with the girl after the separation.

Mrs. Jorus was placed in the witness box, but her evidence was so contradictory that the Attorney-General asked leave to withdraw from the case.

The Chief Justice accordingly directed the jury to return a verdict of not guilty.

This the jury did and the accused was discharged.

CRICKET.

CAPTAIN WALL'S XI V. T. SERCOMBE SMITH'S XI.

This was an emergency match promoted to keep the sacred flame of cricket burning and to prevent the pretermission of any Saturday without some kind of game. Some men are apt to turn-up their noses if asked to play in a mere pick up: we have known failures to get two elevens together to play in a game on which nothing depended, but such was not the case on Saturday last. The sides as originally selected underwent some change, which probably balanced them. Wall's lot went to the wickets first and by tiffin time had scored 114 for 7 wickets, of which the captain himself claimed a well hit 45. After tiffin Hornby, Hooper and Salisbury put on 80 runs between them. Hornby stubbornly kept his sticks up. Hooper was more vigorous than usual, and Salisbury contributed a valuable 24. Prior to this Franklin, *en route* to Macao, had batted freely and Lewis was doing well till he mistook the stumps for the ball. The chance inclusion of the *Undaunted's* chaplain strengthened Wall's side in batting and bowling. Dorehill and Strong both bowled better than their figures indicate, and extras were prolific. With 194 to win, Strong and Smith went in and put on 46 runs, when both had to leave. Dorehill dragged a wide on into his wickets and Waymouth committed suicide, both being well set for probably large scores. Mast had to go upon appeal for l.b.w. being given against him. He didn't like it, but an umpire's word is final, and the pavilion is not a court of appeal. During this time of havoc Dyson was all there, playing a steady and confident game. McLachlan and Good rendered him considerable help and assisted in adding 62. When the eighth wicket fell the score was only 176, which left 18 to win. Anderson of the Bank kept up his end for a quarter of an hour, whilst Dyson made the runs, and had the satisfaction of being in at the death. The whipper in was Sargeant who scored all the runs made whilst he was in. Of course Dyson's batting won the game: he was most patient, but when anything to his taste came along, got it away in fine style. One hit went well over the screen and another pitched on the Praya Reclamation Office. A third powerful drive went straight back at Salisbury, who, in saving his body, badly bruised a finger on the left hand. The sporting padre was in much pain for a few minutes, but he pluckily resumed amidst sympathetic cheering, but of such is "the Queen's Navee." He and Langhorne shared the wickets, both bowling well. The match was keenly fought throughout and afforded an exciting finish, as well as an excellent practice game. Yesterday and to-day the Club is playing the Royal Navy; whilst Christmas Day and Boxing Day will be devoted to the match against the United Services.

Appended are the score and analysis:—

| CAPT. WALL'S ELEVEN. | |
|--|----|
| Capt. Wall, I.M.S., c Strong, b Sercombe Smith | 45 |
| J. F. Noble, c Anderson, b Sercombe Smith | 7 |
| David Wood, R.W.F., b and c Strong | 16 |
| R. D. Anderson, b Sercombe Smith | 1 |
| Lieut. Lewis, R.A., hit wicket, b Strong | 12 |
| Thurston, R.N., b Dorehill | 6 |

| | |
|---|----|
| —Franklin, R.N., c Coolie, b Dorehill | 18 |
| Capt. Langhorne, R.A., c Waymouth, b Dorehill | 7 |
| T. W. Hornby, b Dorehill | 16 |
| Rev. E.H. Salisbury, R.N., not out | 24 |
| J. Hooper, c Mast, b Strong | 16 |
| Extras | 25 |

| Total | 193 |
|--|-----|
| T. SERCOMBE SMITH'S ELEVEN. | |
| T. Sercombe Smith, c Langhorne, b Salisbury | 33 |
| Lieut. Strong, R.M.L.I., c Hooper, b Langhorne | 12 |
| Major Dorehill, R.A., b Salisbury | 11 |
| Major Dyson, A.P.D., not out | 73 |
| Capt. Waymouth, R.A., run out | 15 |
| E. Mast, l.b.w., b Salisbury | 0 |
| —McLachlan, R.N., b Salisbury | 17 |
| Rev. E. Good, R.N., b Salisbury | 13 |
| G. A. Woolcock, b Langhorne | 0 |
| L. J. C. Anderson, b Langhorne | 4 |
| —Sargeant, c Wall, b Salisbury | 5 |
| Extras | 24 |

Total 207

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

| CAPT. WALL'S ELEVEN. | | | | |
|----------------------|------|----|----|----|
| | O. | M. | R. | W. |
| Strong | 11.3 | 2 | 47 | 3 |
| Sercombe Smith | 19 | 2 | 78 | 3 |
| Waymouth | 3 | 1 | 6 | 0 |
| Dorehill | 11 | 2 | 37 | 4 |

| T. SERCOMBE SMITH'S ELEVEN. | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------|----|----|----|
| | O. | M. | R. | W. |
| Salisbury | 27.2 | 5 | 75 | 6 |
| Langhorne | 18.1 | 4 | 52 | 3 |
| Noble | 4 | 0 | 16 | 0 |
| Wood | 4 | 0 | 17 | 0 |
| Hooper | 1 | 0 | 3 | 2 |

FOOTBALL.

The game at Happy Valley on the 17th inst. between the Hongkong Football Club and a team from the Royal Engineers ended in a draw of two goals each.

ROYAL HONGKONG YACHT CLUB.

On Sunday last the fourth club race was sailed over an eleven mile course round Cosmopolitan Dock Buoy, Stonecutter's Island, and a mark-boat off Green Island, leaving all marks to port. There was a moderate flood tide increasing in strength towards the finish and a light northerly wind, very variable both in direction and force.

In the first class the only absentee was the *Active*, whose sail area had been found on measurement some four feet over the limit, a somewhat mysterious growth considering neither sails nor spars had been altered since she was measured last year. On the line the wind was easterly and very light, but soon a shifty northerly breeze was picked up and the fleet settled down for a beat to the first mark. Half way *Iris* was leading boat with *Bonito* second, while *Alannah*, after getting through *Gloria's* lea, was doing well and looked like getting into first place, when, miscalculating *Bonito's* pace and getting payed off by a shift of wind, she failed to get across the latter's bows on the port tack and had to retire from the race.

Iris rounded the buoy first some 10 seconds or so ahead of *Bonito* and 2 mins. and 47 seconds of *Erica*. On the reach and run round Stonecutter's to the Green Island Mark *Iris* slightly improved her lead on *Bonito*, while the remainder closed up on both. *Gloria* especially did well on the run, keeping somewhat to the northward of the leading boats. *Erica* and *Maid Marian* going further towards the middle of the harbour at one time seemed likely to pass the leaders, but the fickle wind failed them and being somewhat by the lea as they neared the mark boat were themselves passed by *Gloria*. The times of rounding were:—

| | H. | M. | S. |
|--|----|----|----|
| <i>Iris</i> | 2 | 24 | — |
| <i>Bonito</i> | 2 | 24 | 30 |
| <i>Gloria</i> | 2 | 25 | 5 |
| <i>Erica</i> and <i>Chanticleer</i> together | 2 | 25 | 47 |
| <i>Maid Marian</i> | 2 | 26 | 20 |

Doreen was untimed, but was a long way astern.

From the mark-boat to the line the wind was even more variable than before. The boats at first headed up nearly on their course, but before the Fairway buoy was reached an easterly puff

turned them in towards the Hongkong shore. *Iris* went round first, followed almost immediately by all the rest, except *Bonito*, and standing well up got into a nice northerly breeze. *Bonito* kept on the port tack for a few minutes longer, and this nearly cost her a place, for when she got up into the same breeze as the rest, she was only fifth boat; however, once into the north wind she followed *Iris* in steering the better course and keeping out of the strength of the tide and from under the lee of steamers, which for the rest had an extraordinary attraction, and landed in a good second. The following are the times at the finish:—

| | H. | M. | S. | Marks. |
|--------------------|----|----|----|--------|
| <i>Iris</i> | 3 | 15 | 15 | 1st 10 |
| <i>Bonito</i> | 3 | 16 | 56 | 2nd 4 |
| <i>Erica</i> | 3 | 18 | 15 | 3rd 1 |
| <i>Gloria</i> | 3 | 19 | 50 | — |
| <i>Maid Marian</i> | 3 | 20 | 20 | — |
| <i>Chanticleer</i> | 3 | 20 | 40 | — |
| <i>Doreen</i> | 3 | 21 | 25 | — |

In the second class the handicaps have been altered since the last race in consequence of the greatly improved form shown by *Meteor*.

Meteor now allows *Dart* 25 seconds a mile, *Payne*, *Ladybird* and *Sybil* 30 seconds a mile, and *Thistle* 60 seconds.

A fair start was made 15 minutes after the first-class, and *Meteor* as usual speedily showed the way to the rest, but was unable in the end to save her time from *Payne*, although she did the course 3 minutes 35 seconds quicker time than *Iris*, as will be seen from the annexed times of finishing:—

| | H. | M. | S. | Marks. |
|-----------------|----|----|----|--------|
| <i>Meteor</i> | 3 | 26 | 40 | 2nd 4 |
| <i>Payne</i> | 3 | 30 | 40 | 1st 10 |
| <i>Dart</i> | 3 | 33 | 30 | 3rd 1 |
| <i>Ladybird</i> | 3 | 40 | 3 | — |
| <i>Sybil</i> | 3 | 40 | 38 | — |

The Royal Hongkong Yacht Club proposes to hold a Regatta on the nineteenth of next month. This being the initial venture on the part of this Club, the Committee have thought it advisable to confine proceedings to one day. It is understood that the Commodore has kindly consented to lend H.M.S. *Wivern* as Flag-ship for the day and a good day's sport may be confidently anticipated. There will be several sailing races, including races for yachts and boats owned by members of the Club and for service boats. There will also be a number of rowing races. The programme is in course of preparation and will be published shortly.

BOXING TOURNAMENT.

At the Theatre Royal on Wednesday night a boxing tournament took place. Mr. W. B. Waters was the promoter and he offered for competition a handsome silver cup of Chinese dragon design. In the front of the cup is a shield and ribbon, the shield being for the name of the winner and the ribbon for the names of the competitors. Mr. Waters acted as referee. There was a good attendance. Among those present were His Excellency the Governor (Sir Henry Blake, G.C.M.G.) and party.

In the first heat Donald beat Reynolds in the second round.

In the second heat Heys beat Woods in the second round.

In the third heat Milwan and Lambert met. The first four rounds ended in a tie. They tried two two-minute rounds in addition, and Milwan won.

In the semi-final Donald beat Heys in the second round.

Donald and Milwan were down to meet in the final. Thesecondswere—for Donald, Sheehan; for Milwan, Underdown. Messrs. Inglis and Bailey were the judges and Mr. Waters referee. Both contestants belong to H.M.S. *Undaunted*. Milwan was the smaller man of the two. In the first round there was nothing to choose between the two, but in the second round Donald showed his superiority to such an extent that Milwan gave in and Donald was declared the winner of the cup.

Lieut.-General Baron Kuroda, Chief Military Attaché to the Japanese Prince Imperial, died at Kobe on the 4th inst. During the China-Japan War, General Kuroda was in command of the artillery of the First Army Corps.

HOCKEY.

The Hongkong Hockey Club met the Officers of the Garrison at Happy Valley on the 18th inst. when the teams were:—Hongkong: Goal—Mac-laren, R.N.; backs—P. Wodehouse and A. N. Other; half-backs—H. W. Slade, F. B. Deacon, and H. Strong; forwards—R. G. Gerrard G. Gibson, R.N., Shettle, R.N., Hazel, R.M.L.I., and Grant Smith. Garrison: Goal—Major Mould; backs—Capt. Loring and Capt. Bean-ley; half-backs—Rundle, B. Thornhill, and Hill; forwards—Caulfield, Stevens, Langhorne, Tullock, and Dykes. The game throughout was almost entirely in favour of the Garrison, who won easily by three goals to one.

HONGKONG VOLUNTEER CORPS.

"D" INFANTRY CO.

The members of the above company hold their third shoot for a cup presented by Hon. J. J. Keswick on Sunday, the 16th inst., on the Association Range at Kowloon. There was a fair attendance of members and the weather was ideal.

The following are the best scores:—

| | 200 | 500 | 600 | Handi- | To- |
|----------------------|------|------|------|--------|------|
| | yds. | yds. | yds. | cap. | tal. |
| * Private A. Watson | 32 | 32 | 35 | sc. | 99 |
| * Lieut. Skinner | 25 | 32 | 30 | 11 | 98 |
| Private A. Mackenzie | 31 | 33 | 29 | 3 | 96 |
| * Private Horley | 26 | 28 | 26 | 15 | 95 |
| * Private Grimshaw | 24 | 29 | 19 | 18 | 90 |
| Sergeant Blake | 23 | 24 | 21 | 18 | 86 |
| Capt. Forbes | 23 | 29 | 21 | 12 | 85 |
| Lieut. Greaves | 26 | 27 | 17 | 15 | 85 |
| Private Andrew | 24 | 25 | 23 | 12 | 84 |
| Private Graham | 22 | 18 | 21 | 21 | 82 |
| Corporal Ritchie | 24 | 27 | 21 | 8 | 80 |

* Winners of spoons.

PRESENT NEEDS IN THE PHILIPPINES.

Major General MacArthur has submitted his report to the U. S. War Department. A considerable portion of the report relates to events which took place previous to the date when he assumed command, and he publishes some of the correspondence and proclamations of the Filipinos obtained before that time. He refers to the change in Aguinaldo's plans in abandoning his army organization and starting a guerilla warfare. The conditions of the country have afforded advantages for such a policy, he says, as they have enabled the insurgents to appear and disappear at their convenience. At one time they are soldiers and immediately after are within the lines in the attitude of peaceable natives. A widely scattered formation of Filipinos quickly followed the guerilla warfare, which led to a corresponding dissemination of American troops, there being fifty-three military stations in the archipelago November 1, 1899, and 413 stations September 1, 1900. This resulted in a large number of minor affairs, many of which did not assume the dignity of a regular combat, though the casualties between the dates stated were 268 Americans killed, 750 wounded, and 55 captured, the Filipino losses during the same time being 3,227 killed, 694 wounded, and 2,864 captured. General MacArthur says the extensive distribution of troops has strained the soldiers of the army to the full limit of endurance. He says the apparently desultory work has demanded more of discipline and as much of valor as was required during the period of regular operations against concentrated field forces of insurrectionists. General MacArthur speaks in the highest terms of the service rendered by the troops amid all labours and hardships.

"The Filipinos," says General MacArthur, "are not a warlike or ferocious people. Left to themselves, a large number of them would gladly accept American supremacy, which they are gradually coming to understand means individual liberty and absolute security in their lives and property. They have been maddened, however, the past five years, by rhetorical sophistry and stimulants applied to national pride, until the power of discriminating in matters of public concern or private interest has been almost entirely suspended. As a substitute for all other considera-

tions the people seem to be actuated by the idea that in all doubtful matters of politics or war men are never nearer right than when going with their own kith and kin, regardless of correctness." This condition, he says, has raised difficulties and obstructions in pacification.

The effort to institute municipal government under American auspices carried the idea of exclusive fidelity to the United States, but this met with difficulties where Filipinos were placed entirely in control, and secret municipal governments were organized in various towns under insurgent auspices to proceed simultaneously with the American Government and often through the same personnel. Presidents and town officials acted in behalf of Americans and secretly in behalf of the insurgents, and paradoxical as it may seem, with considerable apparent solicitude for the interests of both. Wherever there is a group of insurgent forces, contiguous towns contribute to their support and render great assistance in secreting the soldiers and helping them to escape. The reports says the success of the guerilla system depends upon complete unity of action among the native population. That there is such unity is frankly acknowledged, but how it is brought about, General MacArthur says he is unable to ascertain. Intimidation accounts for the condition to some extent. He adds: "It is more probable that the adhesive principle comes from ethnological homogeneity, which induces men to respond for a time to the appeals of consanguineous leadership, even when such action is opposed to their own interest and convictions of expediency."

He says the statement applies to the entire archipelago, excepting the portion of Mindanao occupied by Moros, and the Jolo group. The Moros seem entirely satisfied with present conditions.

General MacArthur quotes captured correspondence to show the efforts of the insurgent leaders to intimidate and control the people. He declares that the guerilla bands could not exist except for the support they received from the towns. He says that the education of the Filipinos will tend to secure their submission, but indicates that this will take a great deal of time and patience and an adequate force.

In closing his report General MacArthur, after speaking of the establishment of a republican form of government in the islands, says: "In the light of existing conditions it is difficult to realize that there is any possibility of such a future for the islands, especially so as at present, and for many years to come, the necessity of a large American military and naval force is too apparent to admit of discussion. On the other hand, however, there are many encouraging conditions to sustain such a conviction. For example, in the Philippines there is no dynasty to destroy; no organized system of feudal laws to eradicate; no principles inconsistent with republicanism which had solidly insinuated themselves into the national life to displace; no adverse aspects of nature to overcome. On the contrary, nature, which is exuberant, balmy and generous, has nourished into existence several millions of sensitive and credulous people, without allegiance to any existing institutions, but animated by certain inchoate ideas and aspirations, which by some unfortunate perversion of thought they conceive to be threatened by America. These people, fortunately, are intelligent, generous and flexible, and probably will yield quickly and with absolute confidence to tuition and advice when thoroughly informed of American institutions and purposes. As a future thought in the same direction it may be suggested that the Aryan races are making their way back into the old continent, which as a consequence is likely within a generation more to become the theatre of gigantic political activities. Up to this time the practical effect of republican institutions has not been considered in this connection, but the rapid extension of republican civilization in these islands, which is not only possible, but probable, of necessity must exert an active and potential influence upon the affairs of Asia, which under the inspiration of American ideas transmitted through Filipinos may exhibit the greatest of political wonders. A rather broad conception perhaps, but

one well calculated to fix the attention of the most casual observer and to warm the fancy of the most indifferent."

WIFE MURDER AT MANILA.

AN EXTRAORDINARY COINCIDENCE.

The *Manila Times* of the 7th inst., publishes a shocking murder which was committed in that city on the night previous, and the arrest on suspicion of the supposed murderer not far from the scene of the crime. The victim is Mrs. Holst, who was, up to within the past month, the stewardess of the ship *Topgallant* which left here some little time ago bound for Port Townsend in ballast; the suspected perpetrator of the cruel deed is John Holst who was the carpenter of the vessel. The story of the dead woman, the *Times* states, is but an exemplification of the danger of following the pace that kills. Mrs. Holst was of Norwegian birth and about 27 years of age. When but a girl she was taken to Australia where she met one Jack Slavens, seaman, and lived with him for some time, having one child. Slavens deserted her and when Holst visited Australia some three years ago he met the woman and married her. Holst and his wife shipped on the *Topgallant*, and by a strange coincidence Slavens was aboard. The old-time relations of Slavens and Mrs. Holst were resumed, and during the voyage to Hongkong much trouble resulted. Slavens did not come to Manila from Hongkong, but shipped on another vessel on account of Holst giving him a severe beating for his attentions to the dead woman. This fight occurred in Hongkong Harbour, in a sampan lying alongside the *Topgallant*.

The next chapter of the story brings the *Topgallant* to Manila, continues the *Times*. The entire crew were discharged and paid off, and Holst and his wife went to the Oregon Hotel. Trouble was brewing between the couple, and quarrels were frequent.

On Wednesday evening Mrs. Holst went to the Alhambra Theatre with three shipmates, and left her husband at the Oregon, partly intoxicated. About 9.20 she complained of feeling bad, and she and the party left the theatre and proceeded to the Oregon Hotel. At last she retired for the night, and the proprietor claims to have heard the sound of a heavy fall after midnight. Yesterday he was awakened and informed that the woman was dead.

The usual post-mortem examination revealed that there had evidently been a severe struggle for life, and the coroner's inquest decided that death had been caused by strangulation.

William Holst was brought up before Judge Memije at Manila on the 10th inst., and after an examination as to his financial condition, counsel was appointed for him and he was remanded to await the preparation of his defence. Missionary MacNeil is taking considerable interest in the accused man, says the *Manila Times*, and he is not at all ungrateful for any kindness shown. Holst still stoutly denies the charge against him, and states that the door of his room was open when he discovered his wife lying on the floor, dead.

A fire of rather alarming proportions broke out at about two o'clock on Thursday morning in the ground floor of a medicine shop situated at 235, Queen's Road West. The flames spread with great rapidity, and had obtained a firm hold of Nos. 233 and 237, shops situated on each side, before the arrival of the Fire Brigade, under the command of Superintendent May, when measures were at once taken to prevent the further spreading of the outbreak. It was soon apparent, however, that Nos. 233 and 235 were doomed to destruction, and abandoning this hopeless task, the firemen turned their attention to the corner shop, No. 237. Fortunately the fire here was only in its incipient stage, and was quickly overcome. The other two shops, however, were completely gutted, nothing but the bare walls being left standing. The origin of the fire is at present merely a matter of surmise; neither can the figure for damages be approximated, although it is certain to be a heavy one. All the shops were insured—No. 233 for \$10,000, No. 235 for \$4,500, and No. 237 for \$7,500. No casualties are reported.

HONGKONG.

The Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial and Nethersole Hospitals begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donation to the funds of the Hospitals:—Parsee Charity Fund, \$100.

The visitors to the City Hall Library and Museum last week included 448 non-Chinese and 179 Chinese to the former institution, 248 non-Chinese and 2,558 Chinese to the latter.

Captain Hofmeier, in command of the German battleship *Weissenburg*, now in harbour here, was formerly captain of the unfortunate schoolship *Gneisenau*, which has just been wrecked at Malaga.

The Dock detachment of the Hongkong Volunteer Corps had their annual dinner at the Hongkong Hotel on the 15th inst., the Commandant, Lieut.-Col. Sir John Carrington, C.M.G., being among those present.

A spark from the cook-house on the 15th inst. set fire to a gardener's hut at Yaumati, and before the outbreak was mastered by the police and soldiers promptly in attendance several other matcheds were involved and destroyed. The damage amounts to \$300.

The Sisters of the Asile de la Sainte Enfance desire to thank all the ladies who presided over the stalls, and the public who patronised the Bazaar in connection with their institution last week. The sum realised at the Bazaar was \$2,200. The Bazaar is still open daily at the French Convent.

The proposed chess match on the 17th inst. between the Army and Civilians did not come off, owing to the failure of the Army, through the sickness of some of their members, to raise a team. The contest for the Club Championship, of which Mr. H. E. Pollock, Q. C., is the holder, has commenced.

Four hundred and fifty out of the twelve hundred siege-train bullocks now at Laichikok, and details, under Capt. Gooch, R.A., are to proceed to India by the first available transport, it being the present intention of the authorities to keep only a sufficient number of animals here to work the guns at Kowloon.

The examiners at the forthcoming examinations at Queen's College will be Messrs. C. Clementi and S. B. C. Ross. The Earl of Donoughmore, then Viscount Suidale, was originally selected with Mr. Clementi, but his departure for home has prevented his presence at the examinations, and Mr. Ross has taken his place.

The following appointments are notified in the *Gazette*:—Mr. R. F. Johnston to be Acting Private Secretary to H. E. the Governor, in the absence of the Earl of Donoughmore; Mr. C. Clementi to be Acting Assistant Colonial Secretary and Clerk of Councils; Mr. P. P. J. Wodehouse to be a Census Officer for taking the Census in 1901.

Among the pleasures in store for amusement lovers, nothing comes along more welcome than the old favourites who have been absent from Hongkong for several years. The Harms-ton Circus Company are now having a successful season at Bangkok, and will shortly be seen here. Col. Hicks has arrived and is prospecting for a suitable site. Due notice will be given of the opening date.

The body of Sergeant W. J. Howell, Royal Welsh Fusiliers, who died in hospital on the 16th inst. from fever, was interred at Happy Valley on the 17th inst. with military honours. Sergeant Howell for some time was instructor of "D" Company, Hongkong Volunteer Corps, and as a tribute to the memory of the deceased, Sergeant-Major Power, in name of the officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of the corps, sent a beautiful wreath to be placed on the grave.

The following is the return of the average amount of bank notes in circulation and of specie in reserve in Hongkong during the month ended 30th November, as certified by the respective banks:—

| Banks. | Average amount. | Specie in Reserve. |
|---|-----------------|--------------------|
| Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China... | \$2,658,660 | \$1,500,000 |
| Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation | 6,775,233 | 5,000,000 |
| National Bank of China, Limited | 450,000 | 150,000 |
| Total | \$9,883,893 | \$6,650,000 |

About one hundred feet of the sea wall at Ly-chikok gave way on Thursday afternoon and became a heap of ruins.

For the first time since the 27th of November a fresh plague case has been reported. This occurred during the 24 hours ending at noon on Tuesday, and resulted in death.

The body of Stoker Sullivan, of H.M.S. *Isis*, was found floating in the harbour on the 15th inst off Fenwick's engineering establishment. Sullivan had been missing since the previous Sunday.

We understand that among the horses which Hongkong is contributing to the Amoy races on the 10th, 11th and 12th prox. are Consul-General Wildman's *Thistle*, Mr. G. H. Potts's *Tocsin*, and Lieut. R. P. Johnson's *Wizard*.

Mr. Kato Motoshiro is provisionally recognised as Consul for Japan at this port.

Next to the Harbour, in which 70 cases were found during the year, the greatest numbers of dead bodies of plague sufferers found were:—Yaumati 43, Praya Reclamation Central 15, Kowloon Point, Mongkoktsui, and Hung Hom 14 each, Praya West 13, Canton Wharf and Queen's Road East, 12 each.

Dr. Francis Clark mentions in his report on this year's plague epidemic at Hongkong that early in the year the Government procured a considerable quantity of Haffkine's prophylactic serum, but unfortunately it has not been found possible to persuade many of the Chinese to accept protection in this form.

Mr. A. G. Ward, the talented organist of St. John's Cathedral, has just composed two very pretty vespers hymns, one of which was sung at the close of evensong by the choir on Sunday last. The second hymn will be sung tomorrow. Mr. Ward has composed some excellent church music, his *Te Deum*, for example, which is one of the best in the repertoire of the Cathedral choir, and was originally composed for a festival of choirs in Oxfordshire. It is to be hoped Mr. Ward's many social duties will not deter him from accomplishing more good work in this beautiful art of composition of church music.

The Catholic Union will hold a grand bazaar of toys to-morrow, on the ground of the Roman Catholic Cathedral, from 3 to 8 p.m. By kind permission of Lieut.-Col. Teversham, D. S. O., and the officers of the 3rd Madras Light Infantry, their excellent band will be in attendance and play a selection of music during the afternoon. The proceeds of the bazaar will be devoted, as was the case last year, in providing Christmas treats to about 400 children and 100 old people. The price of a ticket of admission for adults is 50 cents and this entitles the holder to a Christmas present; for children the price is only 10 cents. The object of the bazaar is very laudable and thoroughly deserves the support of the public. The result of last year's sale was very satisfactory, and was the means of providing a Christmas tree, tea, and a special dinner to a few hundreds of orphans and poor of this colony, and still leaving a credit balance of \$60, as shown by the statement sent us by the Committee.

Another attempt at raising the dredger *Canton River* was made on Sunday, but it ended rather disastrously. The *Sabine Rickmers*, as usual, was filled with water down to her Plimsoll mark, and having made fast to the dredger started to pump the water out of her oil tanks. The strain on the cables encircling the dredger, as may easily be imagined, was tremendous, and they proved unable to bear it and parted—the sunken vessel, which, however, had not been raised any appreciable extent, immediately settling back into its old place. In consequence, the work of raising the dredger has been abandoned for the present, it having been found that the method hitherto pursued—that of attempting to lift her by means of two cables inserted through a hole bored in the bottom at each end of the sunken vessel—is not at all likely to prove successful, at least within an appreciable period of time. It is now purposed to adopt what is known among seamen as the parbuckle system, and to drill at least twelve holes in the bottom of the dredger, from one end to the other, through which hawsers will be passed and an effort made to lift her by her own weight. She is very deeply imbedded in the mud, and the divers are now making excavations in pursuance of the method now adopted.

The Fire Brigade turned out on the 18th inst. to a fire supposed to have broken out in the Wanchai district, but found, when they got to the Police Station there, that the alarm was a false one.

The public auction of Inland Lot No. 982, advertised to have taken place on the 19th inst. at the office of Mr. George P. Lammert in Duddell Street, has been postponed for the present.

Over twenty thousand dollars' worth of grain and other cereals stored on the New Parade Ground have been found to be damaged by the recent typhoon. The loss would have been much heavier had it not been for the energetic manner in which Captain Williams of the Indian Commissariat and his subordinates separated the bags of wet gram from those within the centre of the various stacks which were not affected by the wind and rain.

Arrah-Na-Pogue, one of the most popular of Irish dramas, was given at the Theatre Royal on Thursday night, before a fairly large audience, by Miss Ella Carrington and Company, Miss Carrington impersonating the heroine of the piece, and Mr. Charlie Taylor taking the part of Shaun O' the Post. The company are to be congratulated on the success with which, notwithstanding several drawbacks, they acquitted themselves. Miss Carrington was frequently applauded, and the audience evidently thoroughly appreciated Mr. Taylor's efforts. The other characters were also in good hands. Last night *Rip Van Winkle* was staged and to-night *Mr. Barnes of New York* will be played.

The despatch of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company's steamer *Empress of Japan* from this port on Wednesday is another instance of industrial enterprise put forth in the colony when emergency demands it. The steamer, it will be remembered, collided with a sailing ship while on her outward passage and had to put back to Victoria for repairs. She was patched up and left her Pacific port five days after her advertised time. On the passage, she made up three days, and when she reached Hongkong was but two days beyond her time. She arrived on the Friday afternoon, and immediately went alongside the wharf. The Kowloon Godown Company started discharging her cargo of 1,500 tons the next morning, and by the evening she was finished and went into dock the first thing on Monday morning. By Tuesday morning the repairs were finished, and, in addition, 2,000 tons of cargo were shipped on board. That being accomplished, the *Empress of Japan* steamed out of the harbour on the return passage on the moment of her scheduled time, to the satisfaction of all concerned. It says much for the quick despatch of cargo by the Kowloon Godown Company, and is a creditable piece of work by the Dock Company. They had to replace a number of plates, and execute considerable repairs to the after-cabins and saloon, besides which they had to unship and repair the foremast, as well as refit some deck gear which had been carried away during the collision.

MISCELLANEOUS.

A Paris telegram of the 10th inst. states that the commencement of work on the Vietri-Laokay and Ninhbinh—Giemquinh sections of the Indo-Chinese railway—has been officially authorised.

Up to the present over 218 miles of railway in Japan have been opened for traffic during the present year. This brings up the total mileage in the Empire to over 3,633 miles, of which 832 miles are Government lines and 2,806 miles private lines.

A commission on the subject of the revision of the powers of native judges in French colonies has expressed itself in favour of the absolute abolition of corporal punishment. This opinion will be received with interest in Indo-China, when the question is a vexed one.

Among the recent arrivals from Europe to Colombo is Mr. Von Kamm, a distinguished member of the Imperial Russian Civil Service. He was en route to Bombay to assume duties there as Consul General in India. He has been in Bokhara as the Russian Consul there, and counted distinguished services which have entitled him to the present office, which by the way is the first of its kind created in British India.

It is proposed to form a company at Shanghai under the name of the Anglo-Chinese Fibre Co., Ltd., to acquire and work a process for degumming China Grass and extracting the fibre. The share capital is £10,000, in 5,000 ordinary and 5,000 deferred shares of £1 each. The Chartered Bank of India, etc., are the bankers of the company and Messrs. Holliday, Wise and Co. its agents.

Business at Chungking is reported to be extremely bad. Every settling day numerous failures among the Chinese merchants are reported. Imports are accumulating in the market owing to the want of buyers from the interior. There is very little produce coming in; consequently there is very little exported. The Customs returns for the half-year are the worst on record.

A Nanking despatch states that of the tribute sent by the Governor of Anhwei province upon arrival of the Court at Hsianfu all such things as foreign candles, soap and matches were refused by the Empress Dowager and sent back to Nanking. The same fate is said to have befallen foreign-manufactured things sent as tribute about the same time by other Viceroy and Governors of provinces.

It seems that of the three vessels *Hercules*, *Hebe* and *Von Moltke*, which left Bangkok for Manila some months ago, two are lying still at Cape St. James whilst the third foundered off Pulo Way. Captain Anderson, who was with the flotilla, died in hospital at Saigon. The deceased, who had been in the P. & O. Company's service, and had two sons fighting in South Africa, had many friends in Hongkong who will hear of his demise with regret.

Of the two P. and O. steamers recently sold to the Toyo Kisen Kaisha, Japanese papers record, that the *Rosetta* has successfully passed the examination of the Government ship-surveyors. The *Rohilla* is now being completely repaired at Yokohama. The Nippon Yusen Kaisha originally chartered the *Rosetta* for service on the Company's Australian line, in place of the *Futami Maru* which was lost off Luzon; but as the Japanese Government declines to grant a state subsidy to any chartered vessel, the Nippon Yusen Kaisha has now purchased the *Rosetta*. The vessel has been handed over to her new owners, and was to leave Yokohama for Australian ports on the 14th inst.

Gold-mining in Corea is daily becoming more cosmopolitan in its character. The Unzan gold mine, which is worked by Americans is yielding an output of about 100,000 yen a day on an average. The Germans are directing their attention to the Kyosen mine at Kangwen-do, and the Sensen mine at Ping-an-do, and are trying to obtain a concession to work them from the Corean Government, states the *Kobe Chronicle*. As it seems probable that, unless steps are quickly taken, all the gold mines in Corea will gradually fall into the hands of foreigners, the Corean Government is proposing to select the best mines in the Empire with a view to making them the property of the Imperial house.

Mr. Ernest Woodford Birch, up to recently Resident of Negri Sembilan, now the new Governor of British North Borneo in place of Mr. Hugh Clifford, is of the family whose name has for years been a by-word in the Straits Settlements and Malaya. He was educated at Harrow and became a cadet of the Straits Settlements in January, 1876, and was employed in the Colonial Office, Downing Street, till July, 1878, acting as secretary of the Police Commission in the following year. He passed his final examination in Malay in August, 1883, and forthwith was appointed magistrate at Malacca. He took charge of the Land Office in February, 1881; and in the later months of that year was Acting Collector of Land Revenue at Singapore, becoming Second Assistant Colonial Secretary in 1882. In 1885, Mr. Birch was deputed to go to the Cocos-Keeling Islands on H. M. S. *Espoir* to report on the islands. He was Magistrate and Collector of Land Revenue at Malacca in 1888; and in 1892 was appointed Acting British Resident of Selangor, the duties of which post he carried out till January, 1893, after which he became Secretary to the Government of Perak. From September, 1895, to July, 1896, he was Acting Resident of Perak. Thereafter he was Resident of Negri Sembilan, and went home some months ago on leave.

The cholera figures at Singapore up to the 10th inst. were:—158 cases, 140 deaths.

The U.S. battleship *Kentucky*, which has been in Mediterranean waters for some time, has been ordered to Manila, via the Suez Canal. She is commanded by Capt. Colby M. Chester.

It is reported that many Straits-born Babas in Singapore will put on their "reform" dress on the 1st day of the Chinese New Year, instead of the customary long silk coats, similar to the dress of the Chinese mandarin. The reform dress, the *Straits Times* reports, looks neat and comfortable.

The Secretary of State has just ruled that clerks, at present in the Federated Malay States clerical service, who have joined since federation, who refuse to accept transfer or promotion to posts of which the salary is not less than that already enjoyed by them, may be called upon to resign the service.

It is stated that Dr. Goto, Chief of the Formosa Civil Administration Board, who is now in Tokyo, has petitioned the Central Government to increase to three million yen the Formosan Public Works Loan Bonds, an excess issue of which is to be floated in the course of next year. It is reported that the Minister of Finance has consented to Dr. Goto's proposal. The bonds will probably be placed on a foreign market, it is said.

The total amount of the expenditure for the next Japanese fiscal year, approved at the first meeting of the Cabinet this month, is said to be some 240 million yen. The Budget includes the cost (¥6,000,000) for constructing the Kure Iron Works, the estimates for the works required during the next ten years in the Hokkaido, the increase of *hannin* officials in prefectural governments, the establishment of new Consulates, and the extension of the telegraph and telephone services.

Friends in Hongkong of Mr. B. James, formerly master at Queen's College here, and later at King's College, Bangkok, who visited Hongkong earlier this year with Mr. C. Carter and the young Siamese princes, only to fall ill and spend four months in our Civil Hospital, is reported now to be looking very much better by recent arrivals from Bangkok. He arrived here in poor health after his month's convalescence in Japan, but the voyage south has benefited him considerably. He has left Siam again for North Italy, travelling by the last homeward German Mail from Singapore.

The Committee of the Singapore Rifle Association met at the S.V.A. Drill Hall on the 6th inst. to arrange for the practice and selection of the Singapore team in the inter-port match. It was decided that the team be chosen from the following:—Capt. St. Clair, S.V.A., Major Lewis-Jones, R.E., Capt. Vesey, R.E., Capt. Magrath, 16th M.N.L., Sergt-Major Mugliston, S.V.A., Gnr. C. M. Phillips, S.V.A., Gnr. Flanagan, S.V.A., Sergt. Asehmanne, S.V.R., Sergt. Stevens and Private Morrison, S.V.R., and four men of the 16th Madras Native Infantry. The first team practice was to commence on the 8th inst.

The *Sydney Daily Telegraph*, recording the death of Dr. Steel, of the New South Wales China contingent on the 10th ult., says that the deceased had his education at the Universities of Sydney, Edinburgh, and Paris, taking his medical degree in the Edinburgh Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons. He also secured the M.B., C.M. of the Melbourne University. For a number of years he was the resident medical officer of the Royal Infirmary of Glasgow, subsequently practising his profession in Dudley and Birmingham. He arrived in Sydney in 1882, and rapidly acquired a large practice, being recognised as one of the ablest men in his profession in the colony. To his untiring energy and zeal the proficiency of the Naval Brigade's Medical Corps is largely due. The whole medical department of the corps was under his charge. His loss to the brigade will be a severe one. Dr. Steel was 45 years of age, and leaves a daughter, now in England, and two brothers, Mr. H. Peden Steel, a solicitor of Sydney, and the Rev. Mr. Steel of Campbelltown. Apart from his professional attainments, which were of an exceedingly high order, he was an exceptionally well-read man in general literature, and personally, he enjoyed a wide circle of friends, who admired him for his agreeable manners, his kindly disposition, and his wide knowledge of men and books.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED KINGDOM AND CONTINENT.

| | 1900-1 lbs. | 1899-00 lbs. |
|------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Hankow and Shanghai... | — | — |
| Amoy | 377,612 | 409,704 |
| Foochow | 11,063,234 | 15,487,359 |
| Canton | — | — |
| | 11,440,896 | 15,897,063 |

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

| | 1900-1 | 1899-00 |
|----------------|------------|------------|
| Shanghai | — | — |
| Amoy | 14,663,879 | 11,378,365 |
| Foochow | 10,628,335 | 7,652,225 |
| | 25,292,214 | 19,028,600 |

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO ODESSA.

| | 1899-1900 lbs. | 1898-99 lbs. |
|------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Shanghai and Hankow... | 35,474,308 | 25,478,107 |

EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

| | 1900-1 lbs. | 1899-00 lbs. |
|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Yokohama | 23,620,125 | 24,863,295 |
| Kobe | 11,818,817 | 13,427,117 |
| | 35,433,742 | 38,290,412 |

SILK.

{CANTON, 8th December.—Tsates.—No settlements are reported. Re-reels.—The only settlements reported are 30 bales of No. 1 Re-reels at \$615, and 25 bales of Shantung Re-reels No. 1 at \$610. Filatures.—Good chops fine and medium sizes remained almost neglected, but there was a fair enquiry for coarse sizes No. 2 and good No. 2 chops as well as for Good No. 3 and No. 3 chops medium and coarse sizes, but transactions were very small, most of the sellers being unwilling to sell at the low prices offered from Lyons. From prices paid we quote: \$760 for King Seng 11/13, \$740 for King Shing 13/15, \$675 for Man Po Sing 16/18, \$680/655 for Quan Hing and Tung Hing 11/13 and 13/15, \$630/625 for Wang Hing and Yan Hing Loong 13/15, \$600 for Quan Hing and Yan Hing 14/18, and \$580 for Quan Hing 16/20. Short-reels.—Have been in little enquiry. From prices paid we quote: \$745 for Hau King Lun 14/16, \$735 for Kwong Wo Hing 14/16. Waste.—Prices declined about 5 per cent and little has been done. Appended are quotations in Canton, with laying down cost in London and Lyons, Exchange 4 months' sight, 2/1½, and Fcs. 2.69 per Dollar.

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

| | 1900-1901 bales. | 1899-00 bales. |
|----------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Shanghai | 31,004 | 57,536 |
| Canton | — | — |
| Yokohama | 9,812 | 15,078 |
| | 41,816 | 72,614 |

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.

| | 1900-1901 bales. | 1899-00 bales. |
|----------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Shanghai | 4,691 | 11,621 |
| Yokohama | 10,245 | 20,508 |
| | 14,936 | 32,129 |

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 21st December.—There is no stock on hand. Quotations are:—\$95.50 to \$96.00. Sales 20 piculs.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 21st December.—The advance in price is reported, market being brisk. Quotations are:—

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Shekloong, No. 1, White..... | \$8.15 to \$8.20 per. |
| do. " 2, White..... | 7.15 to 7.20 " |
| Shekloong, No. 1, Brown ... | 5.20 to 5.25 " |
| do. " 2, Brown ... | 5.10 to 5.15 " |
| Swatow, No. 1, White..... | 8.05 to 8.10 " |
| do. " 1, White..... | 7.10 to 7.15 " |
| Swatow, No. 1, Brown ... | 5.15 to 5.20 " |
| do. " 2, Brown ... | 5.10 to 5.15 " |
| Foochow Sugar Candy..... | 11.95 to 12.00 " |
| Shekloong " | 10.60 to 10.65 " |

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per steamer *Ambria*, sailed on the 12th Dec. For Havre:—2 cases preserves, 2 cases China ink, 6 cases basketware, 15 cases essential oil, 16 cases human hair, 29 cases staraniseed, 73 cases bambooware, 75 pkgs. canes, 280 pkgs. tea, 3,323 rolls matting. For Bordeaux:—598 rolls matting. For Havre and/or Hamburg:—3 cases bristles, 12 cases chinaware, 25 cases human hair, 90 bales canes. For Havre and/or Hamburg and/or London:—10 cases bristles, 20 cases essential oil, 30 boxes cantharides, 30 bales feathers. For Hamburg:—3 cases sundries, 3 cases tea, 7 bales bamboo, 8 cases preserves, 12 cases camphor, 20 cases bristles, 63 bags copra, 72 casks wood oil, 86 rolls matting, 88 bales feathers, 226 cases staraniseed, 426 pkgs. canes, 535 pkgs. crackers. For Hamburg and/or London:—20 cases essential oil. For Hamburg and/or Antwerp:—25 bales feathers. For Bremen:—835 bags copra. For Antwerp:—36 pkgs. canes. For Amsterdam:—7 casks preserves. For Copenhagen:—10 pkgs. sundries. For Lisbon:—3 cases sundries. For Callao:—208 pkgs. merchandise.

Per steamer *Pyrrhus*, sailed on the 7th Dec For Liverpool:—2,226 bales hemp, 18 pkgs sundries.

Per ship *Benjamin F. Packard*, sailed on the 15th December. For New York:—25,399 pkgs. crackers, 7,622 rolls matting, 3,702 cases fans, 2,500 bales broken cassia, 2,001 cases preserves, 1,492 cases cassia, 800 cases joss sticks, 273 bales rattancore, 140 cases heatherbrushes, 114 bales strawbraid, 100 cases Saigon cassia, 100 casks soy, 54 cases strawcuffs, 50 bags coffee, 27 cases chinaware, 20 cases blackwoodware, 2 cases essential oil.

Per P. & O. steamer *Socotra*, sailed on the 15th Dec. For Glasgow:—17 cases blackwoodware. For Manchester:—150 bales waste silk. For London:—501 bales hemp from Manila, 14 cases cigars from Manila, 492 boxes tea from Macao, 3,722 boxes tea, 153 rolls mats and matting, 200 casks preserves, 36 bales canes, 7 cases termillion, 7 cases bristles, 2 cases blackwoodware, 2 cranks shaft, 1 case effects, 1 case machinery.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 21st December.—Malwa.—A. fairly good business has been done in the drug, New at \$800/810, Old at \$820.

Bengal.—Our rates have further declined without inducing dealers to operate, though their holdings on small quotations are nominal. Patna and Benares at \$880.

Persian.—No business has transpired during the fortnight.

STOCK.

| | |
|--------------|--------|
| Patna..... | 1,632 |
| Benares..... | 341 |
| Malwa..... | 1,262 |
| Persian..... | 2,425½ |

COTTON.

HONGKONG, 21st December.—Small parcels of New Cotton arrived, and was placed at \$24 to \$24½. Old at \$22 to \$23. Stock, about 1,000 bales.

| | |
|--|----------------------|
| Bombay, | 20.00 to 23.00 picul |
| Bengal (New), Rangoon, } and Dacca, | 23.00 to 24.50 " |
| Shanghai and Japanese, ... | 23.00 to 24.50 " |
| Tungchow and Ningpo, ... | 23.00 to 24.50 " |
| Sale: 800 bales. | |

YARN.

Mr. P. Eduljee, says in his Report, dated Hongkong, 21st December.—Since the issue of last report, comparatively large arrivals have taken place, but the market has been well able to withstand the addition to our stock, as the quantity on hand had run down to a very small compass and comprised principally unsalable goods.

As anticipated the expected demand has made its appearance, and a better and larger selection of goods being on the market, a quiet but steady business has been put through, and sales to the extent of close upon 10,000 bales have transpired. Values during the interval have suffered some change; Nos. 10s. and 12s. being quoted 50 cents to a Dollar lower than last mail, No. 16s. remaining steady, while No. 20s. continue scarce and in good enquiry and are half to a Dollar firmer. At the close the market is quiet but steady, the unexpected decline in exchange and higher prices ruling in India precluding the possibility of any material decline taking place in the near future.

Local Manufacture.—No business has been reported in the production of the Hongkong S. W. and Dyeing Mills.

Japanese Yarn.—Business is much restricted by the paucity of supplies, and prices have a hardening tendency. With the exception of a single sale of 25 bales Kanegafuchi No. 10s. at \$93½ and 50 bales Settsu No. 20s. at \$104, no other transaction by importers has been reported.

Raw Cotton.—Indian staple is quiet with a limited demand, as buyers anticipate lower prices as soon as importations are on the market in bulk and are consequently holding off. Old descriptions are almost without enquiry and about 1,000 bales had to be passed on to Japan. Reported sales of the fortnight aggregate 671 bales old and New Bengal at from \$22½ to \$24, leaving a stock of about 1,300 bales on the market. China descriptions continue in good request and recent importations of 760 bales Shanghai and Ningpo were eagerly taken up at from \$24 to \$24½ as soon as landed. Stock Nil. Quotations are:—Bengal \$18 to \$23½ and China \$22 to \$24½.

Exchange on India shows a smart decline and closes weak to-day at Rs. 154½ for T.T. and Rs. 154½ for Post. On Shanghai 71½ and on Yokohama 2 per cent discount.

The undernoted business in imported and local spinnings is reported from Shanghai during the fortnight ending 16th instant viz:—

Indian:—Total sales 7,392 bales, comprising 3,290 bales No. 20s., 1,612 bales No. 16s., 2,484 bales No. 10s., and 10 bales 6s., prices showing an advance of half to one Tael in Nos. 16s. and Nos. 20, and market closing steady. Estimated unsold stock about 22,000 bales.

Japanese:—Total sales about 3,500 bales on the basis of Tls. 74 to 75 for No. 10s. and Tls. 78 to 79 for No. 20s. prices showing an improvement of 1½ to 2 Taels and market closing strong. Stock nil.

Local:—Total sales about 4,000 bales on the basis of Tls. 64 to 67½ for No. 10s., Tls. 67 to 68½ for No. 12s., Tls. 68 to 70 for No. 14s., and Tls. 70 to 73 for No. 16s., prices showing a general advance of one Tael and market closing strong.

RICE.

HONGKONG, 21st December.—The position of the market is nearly the same as when last reported. Quotations are:—

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| Saigon, Ordinary..... | \$2.85 to 2.90 |
| " Round, Good quality | 3.05 to 3.10 |
| " Long | 3.26 to 3.32 |
| Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2 | 2.95 to 3.00 |
| " Garden, " No. 1 | 3.23 to 3.27 |
| " White..... | 3.90 to 3.95 |
| " Fine Cargo | 4.24 to 4.28 |

COALS.

HONGKONG, 21st December.—Small sales of Japanese at quotations:—

| | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Cardiff..... | \$30.00 sellers ex ship to arrive |
| Australian \$14.00 to \$14.50 ex godown, nominal | |
| Yubari Lump..... | \$11.00 ex godown, nominal |
| Mitki Lump | \$9.50 nominal |
| Moji Lump | \$7.00 to \$9.50 ex ship, steady |
| Hongay double } 10.50 ex godown | nominal. |
| screened | |
| Hongay Lump..... | |
| Hongay Dust | 5.50 " |
| Briquettes..... | 14.50 ex godown |

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 21st December.—Among the sales reported during the week are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS.—Bombay Yarn: 50 bales No. 6 at \$75, 50 bales No. 8 at \$82, 1,000 bales No. 10 at \$73 to \$95, 500 bales No. 12 at \$89 to \$95, 350 bales No. 16 at \$92 to \$98, 900 bales No.

20 at \$85.50 to \$104.00. Grey Shirtings: 600 pieces 8½ lbs. Red 7 Boys at \$3.00. White Shirtings: 500 pieces X 9 at \$5.55, 500 pieces Gold Goose at \$5.05, Mexican: 750 pieces 32 Red Tag at \$2.80, 750 pieces 32 Red Tag at \$2.80, 750 pieces 32 3 Dragon Heads at \$2.62½, 375 pieces Clobber at \$2.62½, 375 pieces 32 Red Tag at \$2.80, 750 pieces 32 Red Tag at \$2.80 Scarlet Camlets. 100 pieces 9 Birds at \$12.00, 300 piece 9 Birds at \$3.00. White Irishes: 250 pieces Gold Horse at \$5.30, 250 pieces Gold Horse at \$5.30, Raw Cotton: 100 bales at \$23.00, 100 bales at \$24.50, 100 bales at \$24.50, 50 bales Ningho at \$24.50, 50 bales Ningho at \$24.00, 50 bales Ningho at \$24.00, 100 bales Ningho at \$24.80, Drill 900 bales 16 lbs. Large Eagle at \$6.50.

COTTON YARN—

| | per bale |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20s..... | \$76.00 to \$109.00 |
| English—Nos. 16 to 24..... | 114.00 to 120.00 |
| " 22 to 24..... | 120.00 to 128.00 |
| " 28 to 32..... | 136.00 to 142.00 |
| " 38 to 42..... | 155.00 to 170.00 |

COTTON PIECE GOODS—

| | per piece |
|---|--------------|
| Grey Shirtings—6 lbs. | 2.15 to 2.25 |
| 7 lbs. | 2.40 to 2.55 |
| 8.4 lbs. | 2.90 to 3.60 |
| 9 to 10 lbs. | 3.70 to 4.50 |
| White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd. | 2.60 to 2.80 |
| 58 to 60 " | 3.25 to 4.05 |
| 64 to 66 " | 4.30 to 5.55 |
| Fine..... | 5.20 to 7.90 |
| Book-folds. | 4.40 to 6.30 |
| Victoria Lawns—12 yards..... | 0.78 to 1.60 |
| T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y. | 1.75 to 1.90 |
| 7lbs. (32 ") | 2.00 to 2.25 |
| 6lbs. (32 ") Mexs. | 1.95 to 2.20 |
| 7lbs. (32 ") | 2.85 to 3.70 |
| 8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.) | 2.90 to 3.60 |
| Drills, English—40yds., 14 to } 16 lbs. | 4.25 to 7.10 |

FANCY COTTONS—

| | |
|---|---------------|
| Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to } 8 lbs } | 1.55 to 5.00 |
| Brocades—Dyed | — to — |
| | per yard |
| Chintzes—Assorted | 0.08½ to 0.17 |
| Velvets—Black, 22 in. | 0.22½ to 0.60 |
| Velveteens—18 in. | 0.20 to 0.22½ |

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------|
| | per dozen |
| Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk | 0.36 to 2.50 |

WOOLENS—

| | per yard |
|---|----------------|
| Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops..... | 0.80 to 1.50 |
| Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths | 1.25 to 2.50 |
| | per piece |
| Long Ells—Scarlet..... | 6.40 to 10.00 |
| Assorted..... | 6.50 to 10.10 |
| Camlets—Assorted..... | 12.50 to 32.00 |
| Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches } Assorted } | 8.00 to 20.00 |
| Orleans—Plain | 8.50 to 10.00 |
| | per pair |
| Blankets—8 to 12 lbs. | 4.00 to 18.00 |

METALS—

| | per picul |
|--------------------------------------|------------|
| Iron—Nail Rod | 4.40 to — |
| Square, Flat Round Bar (Eng.)..... | 4.30 to — |
| Swedish Bar | 7.50 to — |
| Small Round Rod | 4.40 to — |
| Hoop ½ to 1½ in. | 5.00 to — |
| Wire 15/25 | 8.50 to — |
| Old Wire Rope | 2.50 to — |
| Lead, L. B. & Co. and Hole Chop..... | 10.25 to — |
| Australian | 10.00 to — |
| Yellow M'tal—Muntz. 14/20 oz. | 40.00 to — |
| Vivian's. 14/20 oz. | 40.00 to — |
| Elliot's. 14/20 oz. | 39.50 to — |
| Composition Nails | 65.00 to — |
| Japan Copper, Slabs | 41.00 to — |
| Tin | 68.00 to — |

| | |
|--------------------|---------------|
| | per box. |
| Tin-Plates | 6.50 to — |
| | per cwt. case |
| Steel ½ to 1 | 5.50 to — |

SUNDRIES—

| | per picul |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Quicksilver | 158.00 to — |
| | per box |
| Window Glass..... | 5.25 to — |
| | per 10-gal. case |
| Kerosene Oil | 2.40 to — |

VERNON & SMYTH'S SHARE REPORT.

HONGKONG, 21st December.—A fair business has been transacted during the week, the chief feature in the market being a considerable rise in Hongkong and Shanghai Bank shares in sympathy with a rise in the London rate, which is now £60 10s. 0d. The Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co. propose a re-adjustment of their funds by making the existing 12,500 shares of \$125 paid up, into 31,250 shares of \$50 paid up and a meeting for that purpose is called for Monday, the 31st instant.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai continued quiet but steady in the early part of the week, with only small sales at 328 per cent premium. Later, however, in sympathy with several rises on the London rate, the market strengthened considerably and fair sales were effected on time at equivalent rates to from 330 to 345 per cent premium cash; chiefly for March and April. Cash shares were in some small demand but difficult to obtain. Market closes quiet at 350 per cent prem. London £60 10s. 0d. Nationals have advanced without business to \$27 with buyers.

MARINE INSURANCES.—With the exception of small sales of Unions and Traders at quotations there is nothing to report under this heading.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs are still on offer at \$295 with small sales. Chinas have changed hands at \$75½, closing steady at \$76.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have ruled quieter at \$33½ with sellers and but few sales, closing weaker at \$33½. Indos at \$96½ have been more or less neglected and Douglasses show weakness without sales at \$47. China Manilas unchanged and without business. China Mutuals steady with probable buyers at quotations.

REFINERIES.—The market continues neglected with China Sugars offering at \$119.

MINING.—There is very little to report under this heading. Punjoms which have ruled weaker have changed hands in small lots at \$3½. Jebebus at \$7 and later at \$6½. Charbonnages at \$350 and Oliver Bs' at \$1.15 and \$1.20.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Wampoa Docks—a few forced sales of settlement shares at \$541 are reported, but at time of writing market is much firmer with buyers at 552 per cent premium. On time shares, have changed hands at rates equivalent to \$545 cash chiefly for March and April. Kowloon Wharfs continue steady with small sales and buyers at \$86, closing with buyers at 87. Wanchais unchanged and without business.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have been placed to a small extent at \$189 and \$188 for 31st inst. and at \$191 for January, closing quiet at \$188. A small demand for March and April is not readily met. Hotels continue firm with sales and buyers at \$124 and an unsatisfied demand forward. West Points remain quiet and without business at \$50. Humphreys have been placed at \$11½ and \$11½ and close with buyers at the latter rate.

COTTON MILLS.—Hongkongs have improved to \$19 with buyers. Quotations for the Northern Mills are taken from the latest Shanghai Circulars, except Enos, which have been placed locally at Tls. 40.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Cements have changed hands at \$2½, whilst a small demand at \$19½ remains unsatisfied. Watsons have been on offer during the week at \$16 without inducing business. Tramways have improved to \$20 with buyers. It is reported that the company will pay a dividend of \$14 per share. China Providents have found further buyers at \$9½. Watkins are enquired for at \$11½, but no shares are obtainable even at that advanced rate. New Electrics have changed hands at \$5½.

MEMOS.—Extraordinary General Meeting Hongkong Cotton & Co. Company on 22nd inst. Extraordinary General Meeting Punjom Mining Company on 24th inst. General Meeting Star Ferry Company on the 28th inst. General Meeting High Level Tramway Co. on the 27th inst. Extraordinary General Meeting of Hongkong Whampoa Dock Company on 31st instant.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

| COMPANY. | PAID UP. | QUOTATIONS. |
|---------------------------|-----------|---|
| Banks— | | |
| Hongkong & S'hai... | \$125 | { \$562.50, sellers 350 p. ct. prem. = London, £60.10s. |
| China & Japan, ordy. | £4 | £1. |
| Do. deferred | £1 | £5 5s. |
| Natl. Bank of China | | |
| A. Shares | | \$27, buyers |
| B. Shares | £8 | \$27, buyers |
| Foun. Shares... | £8 | \$20. |
| Bell's Asbestos E. A. | £1 | \$1½. |
| Campbell, Moore & Co. | \$10 | \$20. |
| China Prov. L. & M. | \$10 | \$9½, sales |
| China Sugar | \$100 | \$119, sellers |
| Cotton Mills— | | |
| Ewo | Tls. 100 | Tls. 40, s. & buyers |
| International | Tls. 100 | Tls. 35. |
| Laou Kung Mow | Tls. 100 | Tls. 55, buyers |
| Soychee | Tls. 500 | Tls. 325, sellers |
| Yahloong | Tls. 100 | Tls. 30, buyers |
| Hongkong | \$100 | \$19, buyers |
| Dairy Farm | \$6 | \$7, buyers |
| Fenwick & Co., Geo. | \$25 | \$54, buyers |
| Green Island Cement... | \$10 | \$20, sellers |
| H. & C. Bakery | \$50 | \$50, buyers |
| Hongkong & C. Gas | £10 | \$118, buyers |
| Hongkong Electric { | \$5 | \$11½, sellers |
| H. H. L. Tramways ... | \$10 | \$5.50, sales & sellers |
| Hongkong Hotel | \$50 | \$124, buyers |
| Hongkong Ice | \$25 | \$178, sellers |
| H. & K. Wharf & G. | \$50 | \$47, buyers |
| Hongkong Rope | \$50 | \$170, sellers |
| H. & W. Dock | \$125 | 552 p. ct. prem. = \$815, buyers |
| Insurance— | | |
| Canton | \$50 | \$145, buyers |
| China Fire | \$20 | \$76, buyers |
| China Traders' | \$25 | \$50, buyers |
| Hongkong Fire | \$50 | \$295, sellers |
| North-China | £25 | Tls. 172½, sellers |
| Straits | \$20 | \$1. |
| Union | \$50 | \$245, sellers |
| Yangtze | \$60 | \$110, sellers |
| Land and Building— | | |
| Hongkong Land Inv. | \$100 | \$188, sellers |
| Humphreys Estate... | \$10 | \$11½, sellers |
| Kowloon Land & B. | \$30 | \$28. |
| West Point Building | \$50 | \$49, buyers |
| Luzon Sugar | \$100 | \$38, buyers |
| Mining— | | |
| Charbonnages | Fcs. 250 | \$350, sellers |
| Gt. Estn. & C'donian | \$3 | 5 cents, sales |
| Do. Preference | \$1 | 30 cents |
| Jebebu | \$5 | \$6½, sellers |
| Queen's Mines Ltd. | 25c. | 7 cents, sellers |
| Olivers Mines, A. | \$5 | \$2. |
| Do. B. | \$5 | \$1½. |
| Punjom | \$8 | \$3.50, sellers |
| Do. Preference... | \$1 | \$1. |
| Raubis | 16s. 10d. | \$47. |
| New Amoy Dock | \$6½ | \$20½. |
| Oriente Hotel Co., Ltd. | \$50 | \$82½. |
| Steamship Coys.— | | |
| China and Manila | \$50 | { \$65, sellers \$27, sellers |
| China Mutual Pref. | £10 | £12, buyers |
| China Ordinary | £10 | £12. |
| Do. | £5 | £6. 10s., buyers |
| Douglas Steamship | \$50 | \$47, sellers |
| H. Canton and M. | \$15 | \$33½, sellers |
| Indo-China S. N. ... | £10 | \$96½. |
| Shell Transport and | £1 | £3 5s., sellers |
| Trading Co. | | |
| Star Ferry | \$10 | { \$18½, buyers \$4½, buyers |
| Tebrau Planting Co. | \$5 | \$3, sellers |
| United Asbestos | \$4 | \$8, sellers |
| Do. | \$10 | \$20. |
| Wanchai Warehouse... | \$37½ | \$64, buyers |
| Watkins, Ltd. | \$10 | \$11½, buyers |
| Watson & Co., A. S. ... | \$10 | \$16, sellers |
| Universal Trading (| \$5 | \$5½, buyers |
| Co., Ltd. | | |
| Cigar Companies— | | |
| Alhambra, Limited... | \$500 | \$1,500, buyers |
| La Commercial, Ltd. | \$500 | \$1,000, ex div. |
| Hensiana, Limited... | \$100 | \$100. |
| La Favorita, Ltd. ... | \$500 | \$700, sales |

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

FRIDAY, 21st December.
EXCHANGE.

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--------|
| ON LONDON.— | |
| Telegraphic Transfer | 2/0½ |
| Bank Bills, on demand | 2/0½ |
| Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight | 2/1 |
| Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight | 2/1½ |
| Credits, at 4 months' sight | 2/1, 1 |

Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight 2/1½

| | |
|---|--------------|
| ON PARIS.— | |
| Bank Bills, on demand | 2.60½ |
| Credits, 4 months' sight | 2.66 |
| ON GERMANY.— | |
| On demand | 2.12 |
| ON NEW YORK.— | |
| Bank Bills, on demand | 50½ |
| Credits, 60 days' sight | 51½ |
| ON BOMBAY.— | |
| Telegraphic Transfer | 154½ |
| Bank, on demand | 154½ |
| ON CALCUTTA.— | |
| Telegraphic Transfer | 154½ |
| Bank, on demand | 154½ |
| ON SHANGHAI.— | |
| Bank, at sight | 71½ |
| Private, 30 days' sight | 72½ |
| ON YOKOHAMA.— | |
| On demand | 2 p. c. dis. |
| ON MANILA.— | |
| On demand | 1 p. c. dis. |
| ON SINGAPORE.— | |
| On demand | ¾ p. c. pm. |
| ON BATAVIA.— | |
| On demand | 124½ |
| ON HAIPHONG.— | |
| On demand | 2 p. c. pm. |
| ON SAIGON.— | |
| On demand | 1 p. c. pm. |
| ON BANGKOK.— | |
| On demand | 60 |
| SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate | 9.54 |
| GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael | 49.75 |
| BAR SILVER, per oz. | 29½ |

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 21st December.—Market continues dull, with little enquiry for tonnage in any direction. Saigon to Hongkong, two steamers have been chartered at 10 cents per picul, and another medium sized carrier might be placed at this figures; to Philippines, there is some enquiry for small steamers at 35/36 cents per picul; to Java, 32 cents per picul. Bangkok to Hongkong, 30 and 35 cents per picul has been paid for several consecutive trips and further tonnage is wanted at same rates. Java to Hongkong, 20/25 cents per picul nom. Coal freights.—Moji to Hongkong \$2.75 and Singapore, \$3 per ton. Mororan to this, \$4 per ton. Sailing vessels.—No enquiry for New York and San Francisco. Small vessels are wanted to load at Rajang for Hongkong.

The following are the settlements:—

Benjamin Sewall—American ship, 1,320 tons, Singapore to Hongkong, \$11,500; option Shanghai, \$14,500 in full.
Saint Jerome—British steamer, 1,845 tons, Mororan to Hongkong, \$4 per ton.
Benlariq—British steamer, 1,453 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$2.75 per ton.
Samoa—British steamer, 4,507 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$2.75 per ton.
Charles Rogier—Belgian steamer, 1,556 tons, hence to Vladivostok, \$14,000 in full.
Chunsang—British steamer, 1,418 tons, 5 trips, Bangkok to Hongkong 35 and 30 cents per picul.
Tritos—German steamer, 1,033 tons, Hongay to Saigon, \$3.50 per ton.
China—German steamer, 1,271 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 10 cents per picul.
Deuteros—German steamer, 1,252 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 10 cents per picul.
Amigo—German steamer, 822 tons, monthly, 3½ months, private terms.
Sullberg—German steamer, 782 tons, monthly, 3 months, private terms.
Elita Nossack—German steamer, 1,152 tons, monthly, 3 months, \$9,000 per month.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

FOR LONDON.—*Clyde* (str.), *Calchas* (str.), *Rhipheus* (str.), *Achilles* (str.), *Shinano Maru* (str.).
FOR LIVERPOOL.—*Dardanus* (str.).
FOR MARSEILLES.—*Oceanien* (str.), *Shinano Maru* (str.).
FOR BREMEN.—*Prins Heinrich* (str.).
FOR HAVRE AND HAMBURG.—*Sambia* (str.), *Sibiria* (str.), *Aragonia* (str.), *Wittenberg* (str.), *Silesia* (str.).
FOR TRIESTE.—*Gisela* (str.).
FOR VICTORIA, B.C.—*Victoria* (str.), *Tartar* (str.).
FOR VANCOUVER VIA SHANGHAI.—*Empress of China* (str.).
FOR SAN FRANCISCO.—*Doric* (str.), *Nippon Maru* (str.), *China* (str.).
FOR NEW YORK.—*Hudson* (str.), *Verona* (str.), *Devonshire* (str.), *R. Morrow* (ship).
FOR AUSTRALIA.—*Rosetta Maru* (str.), *Austrian* (str.), *Taiyuan* (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

December—ARRIVALS.

- 14, Prudentia, British trspt., from Singapore.
 14, Kutsang, British str., from Java.
 15, Marie Jebson, German str., from Saigon.
 15, Chinkiang, British str., from Wuhu.
 15, Lyeemoon, German str., from Canton.
 15, Sungkiang, British str., from Manila.
 15, Kyoto Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
 15, Perla, British str., from Manila.
 15, Anping, British str., from Canton.
 15, Hating, French str., from Haiphong.
 15, Arratoon Apcar, British str., from Calcutta.
 15, Astoria, British barque, from Cardiff.
 15, Cheangchow, British str., from Singapore.
 15, Cheang H. Kian, British str., from Straits.
 15, Michael Jebson, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
 15, Phranang, German str., from Bangkok.
 16, Akashi Maru, Jap. str., from Coast Ports.
 16, Amigo, German str., from Singapore.
 16, Ernest Simons, Fr. str., from Shanghai.
 16, Helios, Norwegian str., from Hongay.
 16, Loongmoon, German str., from Shanghai.
 16, Loodiana, British trspt., from Shanghai.
 17, Choysang, British str., from Canton.
 17, Terrible, British cruiser, from Yokohama.
 17, Taksang, British str., from Shanghai.
 17, Rhipeus, Dutch str., from Singapore.
 17, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
 17, Taiwan, British str., from Canton.
 17, Sullberg, German str., from Chefoo.
 18, Siam, British str., from Bangkok.
 18, Kwanglee, British str., from Canton.
 18, Esang, British str., from Canton.
 18, Tritos, German str., from Java.
 18, Wilhelmina, Dutch str., from Manila.
 18, Hong Bee, British str., from Straits.
 18, Picciola, German str., from Chefoo.
 18, Tategami Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
 18, Astrea, British cruiser, from Practice.
 18, Yawata Maru, Jap. str., from Australia.
 19, Kweilin, British str., from Canton.
 19, Else, German str., from Shanghai.
 19, Taille, German str., from Swatow.
 19, Thales, British str., from Coast Ports.
 19, Hoihao, French str., from Pakhoi.
 19, Adolph Obrig, Amr. ship, from N. York.
 20, Sumner, Amr. trspt., from Manila.
 20, China, Amr. str., from San Francisco.
 20, Daybreak, British str., from Shanghai.
 20, Wuhu, British str., from Wuhu.
 20, Loongsang, British str., from Manila.
 20, Queen Adelaide, British str., from Victoria.
 20, Sambia, German str., from Hamburg.
 20, Victoria, British str., from Tacoma.
 20, Kiukiang, British str., from Canton.
 20, Clyde, British str., from Shanghai.
 20, Hikosan Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
 21, Hailong, British str., from Swatow.
 21, Loongmoon, German str., from Canton.
 21, Taijin Maru, Japanese str., from Swatow.
 21, Benlarig, British str., from Moji.
 21, Decima, German str., from Cebu.
 21, Tiger, Norwegian str., from Kutchinotzu.
 21, Carthage, British hospital ship, from Calcutta.
 21, Kaiserin Augusta, Ger. cr., from Tsingtau.
 21, Alexander, American trspt., from Manila.
 21, Singan, British str., from Shanghai.

December—DEPARTURES.

- 14, Taisang, British str., for Swatow.
 14, Chowtai, German str., for Swatow.
 15, Daphne, German str., for Nagasaki.
 15, Socotra, British str., for London.
 15, Chinkiang, British str., for Canton.
 15, Fushun, British str., for Shanghai.
 15, Glenogle, British str., for Tacoma.
 15, Yedo Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
 15, Hermes, Norw. str., for Hongay.
 16, Tsintau, German str., for Nagasaki.
 16, Volute, British str., for Yokohama.
 16, Hailan, French str., for Pakhoi.
 16, Tamsui Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
 16, Jacob Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Hoihow.
 16, Peluse, British str., for Shanghai.
 16, Cheangchow, British str., for Amoy.
 16, Hongkong, French str., for Hoihow.
 15, B. F. Packard, Amr. bark, for New York.
 16, Rewa, British transport, for Bombay.
 16, Isis, British cruiser, for Swatow.
 17, Pigmy, British g-bt., for Singapore.
 17, Algerine, British g-bt., for Singapore.
 17, Undaunted, British cr., for Practice.
 17, Astrea, British cruiser, for Practice.
 17, Ernest Simons, French str., for Europe.

- 17, Prudentia, British trspt., for Singapore.
 17, Haiching, British str., for Haiphong.
 17, Choysang, British str., for Swatow.
 17, Loongmoon, German str., for Canton.
 18, Loodiana, British trspt., for Calcutta.
 18, Lyeemoon, German str., for Shanghai.
 18, China, German str., for Saigon.
 18, Taiwan, British str., for Swatow.
 18, Cheang H. Kian, British str., for Amoy.
 18, Phra C. C. Kiao, British str., for Bangkok.
 18, Hailong, British str., for Swatow.
 18, Anping, British str., for Shanghai.
 18, Perla, British str., for Manila.
 18, Hating, French str., for Haiphong.
 18, Vesper, French str., for Shanghai.
 19, Hongkong Maru, Jap. str., for S. F. cisco.
 19, Empress of Japan, Brit. str., for V'couver.
 19, Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
 19, Sungkiang, British str., for Manila.
 19, Kaifong, British str., for Cebu.
 19, Esang, British str., for Shanghai.
 19, Fausang, British str., for Singapore.
 19, Michael Jebson, Ger. str., for Haiphong.
 19, Akashi Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
 19, Rhipeus, Dutch str., for Shanghai.
 19, Belgika, Amr. str., for Manila.
 20, Pelayo, British str., for Singapore.
 20, Kweilin, British str., for Shanghai.
 20, Hong Bee, British str., for Amoy.
 20, Tsinan, British str., for Yokohama.
 20, Kiukiang, British str., for Shanghai.
 20, Carlisle City, British str., for S. Francisco.
 20, Kwanglee, British str., for Shanghai.
 20, Daybreak, British str., for Canton.
 20, Hanoi, French str., for Hoihow.
 20, Taksang, British str., for Cho'oo.
 21, Yawata Maru, Jap. str., for Yokohama.
 21, Clara, German str., for Hoihow.
 21, Helios, Norwegian str., for Hongay.
 21, Tategami Maru, Jap. str., for Moji.
 21, Wuhu, British str., for Canton.

PASSENGERS LIST.
ARRIVED.

- Per *Kaifong*, from Cebu, Mrs. Lawton and three children and Mrs. Marian R. Lorentz.
 Per *Rewa*, from Taku, &c., Comdr. Hill, R.N., Comdr. Elderton, R.I.M., Lieut. Headlam, R.I.M., Paymaster Murray, R.N., and Miss Wallace.
 Per *Sungkiang*, from Manila, Mr. Fush, Mr. L. L. Clves, Miss J. H. Tucker, Mrs. A. H. Roberts, Lieut. Sower, Misses Cutler, Moota, Wesiner, Mrs. Rolodorf, Messrs. Hagland, Boas, Sulmon, John, Gurkstock, Babes and Johnson.
 Per *Perla*, from Manila, Miss M. Mortimer, Dr. Vruger, Mr. J. J. Connell and Mr. Vogel-sang.
 Per *Loongmoon*, from Shanghai, Messrs. Weber and Allers.
 Per *Loodiana*, from Shanghai, Major Thom-sen and Lieut. Wallace.
 Per *Phranang*, from Bangkok, Col Hicks.
 Per *Arratoon Apcar*, from Calcutta, &c., Mrs. F. H. G. Hutchinson, Mrs. Mulvany and infant, Lieut. Ruxton, Lieut. Gordon, Mr. Pilkington and Rev. Moyser.
 Per *Ernest Simons*, for Hongkong, from Shanghai, Messrs. A. W. Newton, L. Lemss, L. E. Philips, B. Lundholm, Capt. Landais, Messrs. M. Xavier, D. Xavier, Wm. Lus-tig, Adzuma, Bernard, B. Barbash, J. D. de Souza, A. Robert, Miss Kitty Wilbur, Messrs. J. W. Ross Taylor, H. Burton and C. H. Read-ing; from Kobe, Messrs. Hutchinson and S. T. Austin, Major and Mrs. Pearce, Messrs. Drono-solki, Laurence Wright, Mrs. and Miss Folger, Messrs. Robinson and Heintze; from Yokohama, Mr. and Miss Duberly, Messrs. Look Chu and J. A. Chinoy; for Saigon, from Shanghai, Messrs. Ferra and Cataloni; from Yokohama, Mrs. Vaul-t Deschamps, Messrs. Bruel, Albertini, Vandole, Bertrand, Marcilly; from Kobe, Mr. Hao Nigyen Tuc; from Taku, Mr. Schein; from Nagasaki, Mr. Pho; for Singapore, from Shanghai, Messrs. Du-monteil Lagreze and Emil Bosenkraus; from Yokohama, Miss Fern Ninu, Mr. Liem Son; from Kobe, Mr. Moses; from Nagasaki, Mr. Suge-matsu, Mr. and Mrs. Kusano, Mrs. Hayashida, Miss Fazaki; for Colombo, from Yokohama, Mr. Chandiron; for Marseilles, from Shanghai, Mr. Mrs. and Miss Wehrung, Messrs. Tricker, Doire, Dr. Matignon, Messrs. Clapiers and Asseline, Major Preany, Messrs. Soitevin Jean and

Diacre; from Kobe, Messrs. Firmin Bobo and Furnon, Mrs. Jammes and Mrs. Chair; from Nagasaki, General and Mrs. Frey, Prince Wia-sensky, Mrs. Pacrand, Messrs. Mayolle, Raffaelli, de la Guilloniere, Callat, and Anne.

Per *Thales*, from Coast Ports, Mr. and Mrs. Ramsey, Lieut. Gardner and Mr. M. Muller.

Per *Yawata Maru*, from Australia, &c., for Hongkong, Messrs. F. Collins and H. Knipping, Capt. J. B. Carpenter, Mr. F. L. Pratt, Mrs. Goodchild, Messrs. L. J. Hill and J. Tetsch, Mr. and Mrs. Kuenzle and two children, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Taylor, Messrs. C. Taylor and D. Curlton, Mrs. Kimm, Mr. J. Vidal, Miss E. Carrington, and Miss Lee; for Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Taylor, Messrs. S. Ransome, C. Ingles and A. J. Protheroe.

Per *Victoria*, from Tacoma, Messrs. John Hawkins and John Anderson.

Per *China*, from San Francisco, &c., Mr. E. Benck, Miss Crozier, Messrs. F. S. Clarke, C. W. Dickson, M. C. Emerson, C. L. Harding, R. E. Kelly, V. P. Musso de Perolta, Miss M. Murphy, Messrs. G. E. Richardson and V. Robinson, Mr. and Mrs. F. L. Seely, Mrs. T. T. Thornburg and child, Mr. E. C. Tobey, Miss C. Campbell, Messrs. E. A. Cardini, A. G. Center, Dr. and Mrs. F. R. Day, Messrs. Froch-ner, A. C. Johnson, S. W. Lewis, Rev. H. D. Porter, Messrs. H. Rudy, C. T. Robinson, Miss H. Stone, Mrs. Percy Scott, Mrs. R. M. Thorn-burg, and Mr. F. B. Talbot.

Per *Clyde*, from Shanghai, for Hongkong, Mr. G. T. S. Saunby, Miss Arnold, Mr. A. K. Dehdasti, Father Charles Elli, Mr. I. Simpson, Capt. Meifsel, Messrs. J. Patton and C. McGee; for Singapore, Mr. Otten; for Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. Polhill and four children, Miss Drake; for London, Sub-Lieuts. H. Boyes, H. Gibbs, A. P. Tillard, and E. P. Pope, Lieut. A. F. St. C. Armitage and Mr. Melville; from Yokohama via Shanghai, for London via Marseilles, Dr. Mrs. and Miss Rawson.

DEPARTED.

Per *Inaba Maru*, for Marseilles, &c., Miss Woodford, Messrs. T. Black, J. M. Miller, J. B. Fitz Gibbon, Lieut. Woodhouse, Mr. Jas. Ricalton, Mr. and Mrs. A. Benn, Mrs. Penrose, Messrs. W. H. Mandall and Paul de Silva.

Per *Ernest Simons*, from Hongkong, for Saigon, Lieut. M. Rougier, Messrs. Panigean and J. Berthet, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Massy Leech; for Singapore, Miss J. E. Wisner, Messrs. C. Smith and J. E. Moses, Revs. Piton and Ringen-back; for Colombo, Mr. P. Rautenfeld; for Bombay, Mr. and Mrs. Sutherland; for Mar-seilles, Messrs. J. Pinto, M. Lopes, A. C. Santos, A. Santos, J. Pereira, J. M. L. Bourg, Y. Guyo-mard, L. Danger, R. L. Gelenand and E. Fay.

Per *Lyeemoon*, for Shanghai, Dr. Sanger, Mr. Demare and Mrs. Narcisse.

Per *Perla*, for Manila, Mr. and Mrs. Tashiro, Mr. and Mrs. Nakawo, Mr. and Mrs. Kido, Messrs. J. L. Upham and J. G. Upton, Mrs. E. C. McCullough, Miss Williams, Mr. C. H. Reading, Mrs. and Miss McCalla, Major and Mrs. Walkett, Mr. D. Earnshaw, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Y. Shumeo, Mr. and Mrs. S. Ohtsuon, Messrs. Morgan and B. Eiffer.

Per *Hongkong Maru*, for Shanghai, Messrs. A. Clarke and Tagashi; for Nagasaki, Messrs. H. Mannheim and S. M. Berger; for Kobe, Mr. T. Hay; for Yokohama, Mr. Matsumaga; for San Francisco, Mr. Peter Berglain, Mrs. R. M. McUrei and Mr. C. Fowler.

Per *Empress of Japan*, from Hongkong, for Shanghai, Mrs. Dipple, Mr. R. P. Dipple, Mrs. Figueiredo and infant, Mrs. E. Figueiredo and child, Messrs. J. W. Ross Taylor and F. P. Pratt, Mrs. Trelfell, Lieut. C. W. Gordon, Lieut. Ruxton, Lieut. McPherson, Lieut. Mc-Keehnie, Messrs. J. von Oertzen, A. V. Hogg, H. E. Oakley, C. D. Wilkinson, Capt. H. S. Langhorne, R. A., Messrs. G. H. Potts, Peter S. Hyndman, Eugene M. Hyndman, Miss H. E. Long, Messrs. A. S. H. Pilkington, L. Pratt, E. Collins, and J. R. Wilkinson; for Yoko-hama, Col. and Mrs. M. Barber, Mr. and Mrs. Hy. Keswick, and Lieut.-Col. E. Welchman; for San Francisco, Rev. W. Moyser; from Yokohama, for Victoria, Mr. H. Simmons.

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